KOUNODORI

Dr. Stork

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YOU
SUZUNOKI

KOUNODORI

Dr. Stork

1

CONTENTS

TRACK 1 Doorstep Mother ·················· 3

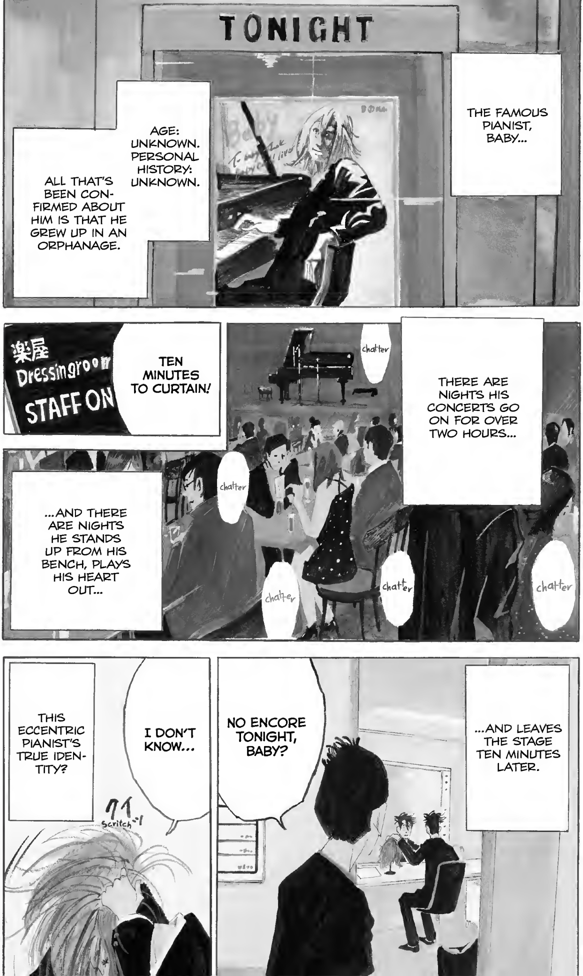
TRACK 2 Threatened Miscarriage ······ 39

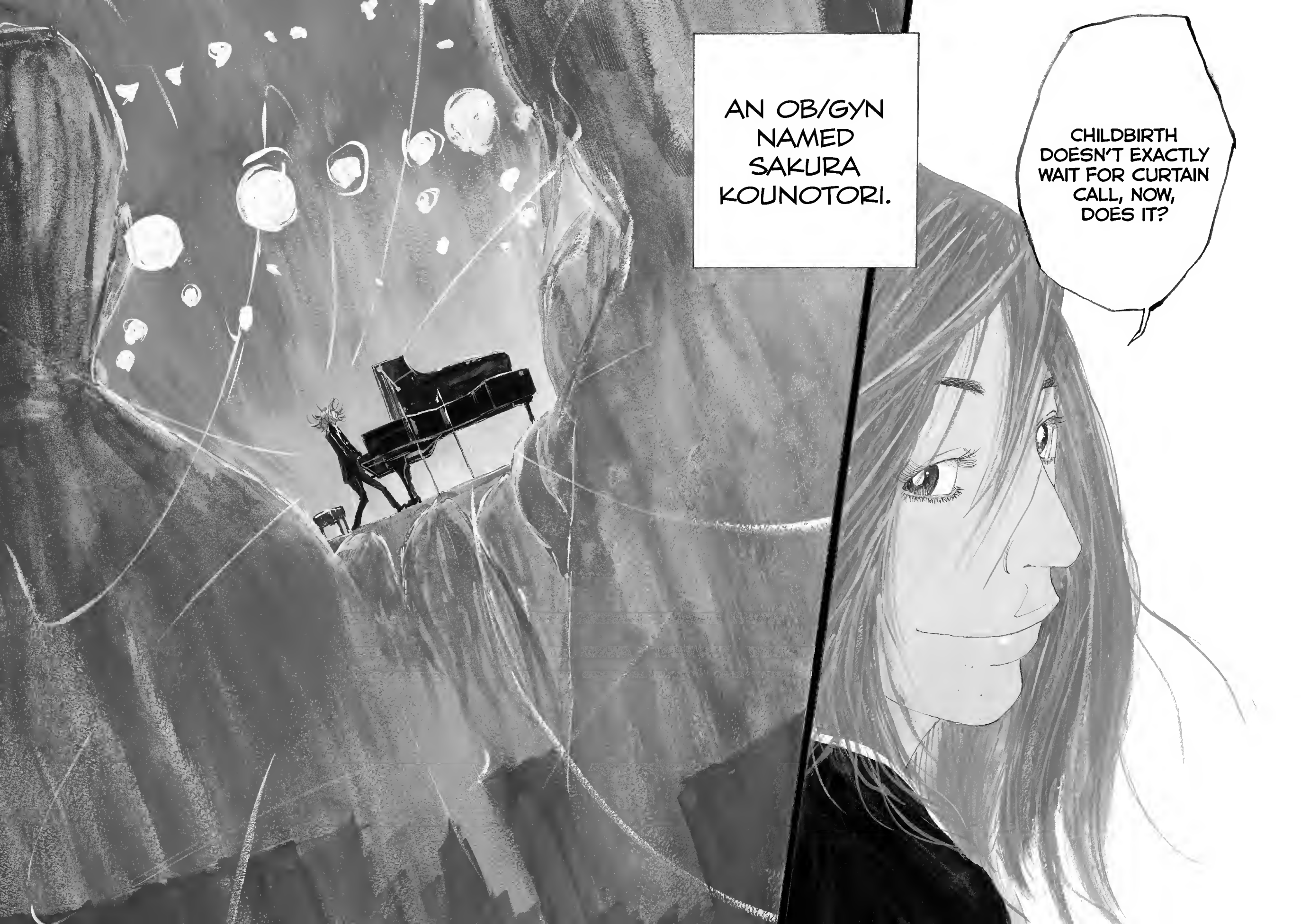
TRACK 3 Gonorrhea ···························· 137

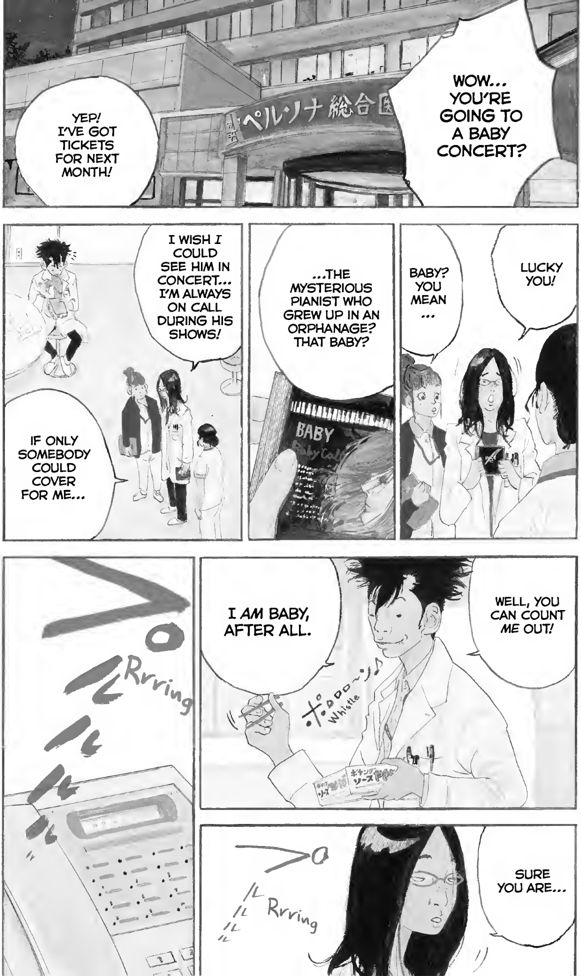
BONUS TRACK On Call ································· 159

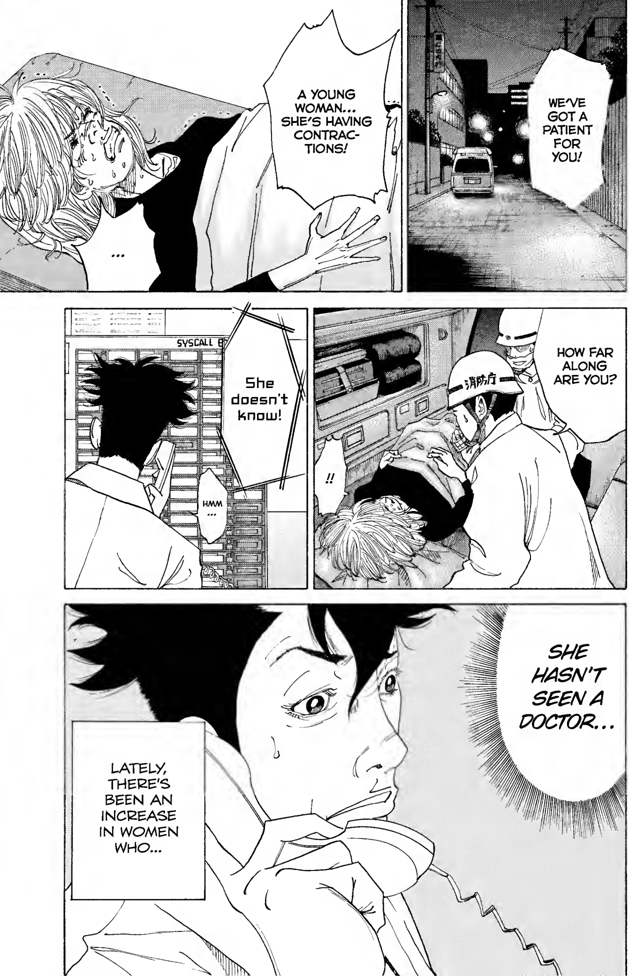
TRACK 1

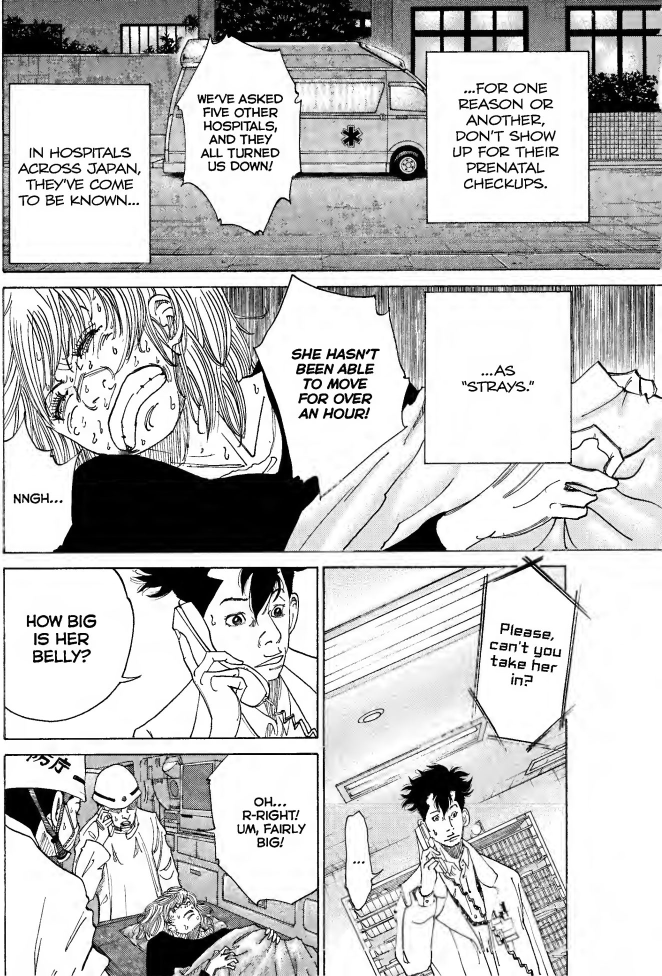
Doorstep Mother

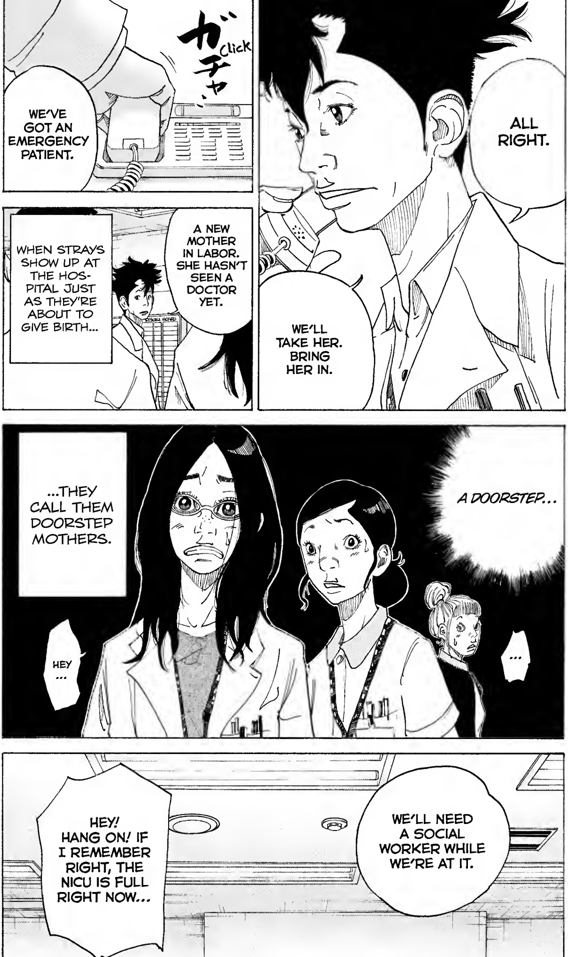

TONIGHT
THE FAMOUS PIANIST, BABY...
AGE: UNKNOWN. PERSONAL HISTORY: UNKNOWN.
ALL THAT'S BEEN CONFIRMED ABOUT HIM IS THAT HE GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE.
THERE ARE NIGHTS HIS CONCERTS GO ON FOR OVER TWO HOURS...
chatter
楽屋 Dressingroom STAFF ON
TEN MINUTES TO CURTAIN!
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
...AND THERE ARE NIGHTS HE STANDS UP FROM HIS BENCH, PLAYS HIS HEART OUT...
...AND LEAVES THE STAGE TEN MINUTES LATER.
NO ENCORE TONIGHT, BABY?
I DON'T KNOW...
クイ Scritch
THIS ECCENTRIC PIANIST'S TRUE IDENTITY?


CHILDBIRTH DOESN'T EXACTLY WAIT FOR CURTAIN CALL, NOW, DOES IT?
AN OB/GYN NAMED SAKURA KOUNOTORI.

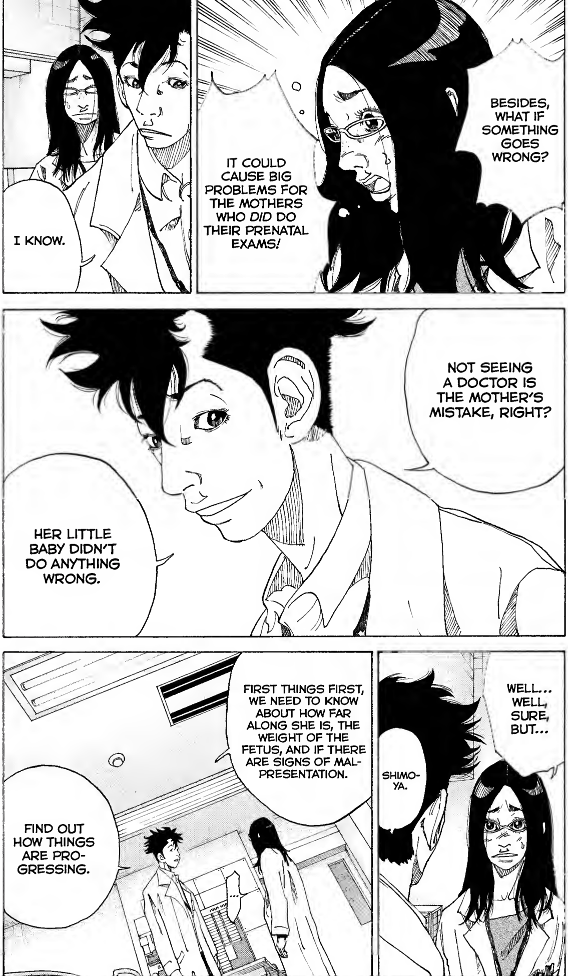

WOW... YOU'RE GOING TO A BABY CONCERT?
ペルソナ総合
YEP! I'VE GOT TICKETS FOR NEXT MONTH!
LUCKY YOU!
BABY? YOU MEAN ...
...THE MYSTERIOUS PIANIST WHO GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE? THAT BABY?
BABY
Baby Cal
I WISH *I* COULD SEE HIM IN CONCERT... I'M ALWAYS ON CALL DURING HIS SHOWS!
IF ONLY SOMEBODY COULD COVER FOR ME...
WELL, YOU CAN COUNT *ME* OUT!
I *AM* BABY, AFTER ALL.
ポロロロ〜♪ Whistle
ソース
Rrring
SURE YOU ARE...
Rrring

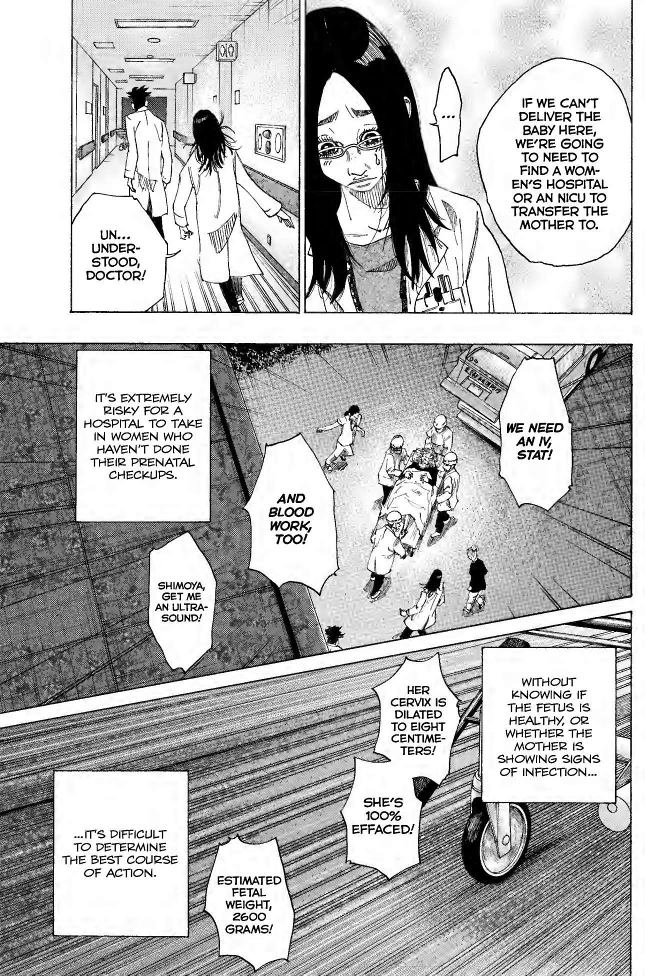

WE'VE GOT A PATIENT FOR YOU!
A YOUNG WOMAN... SHE'S HAVING CONTRACTIONS!
...
HOW FAR ALONG ARE YOU?
消防庁
!!
SYSCALL
She doesn't know!
HMM...
SHE HASN'T SEEN A DOCTOR...
LATELY, THERE'S BEEN AN INCREASE IN WOMEN WHO...

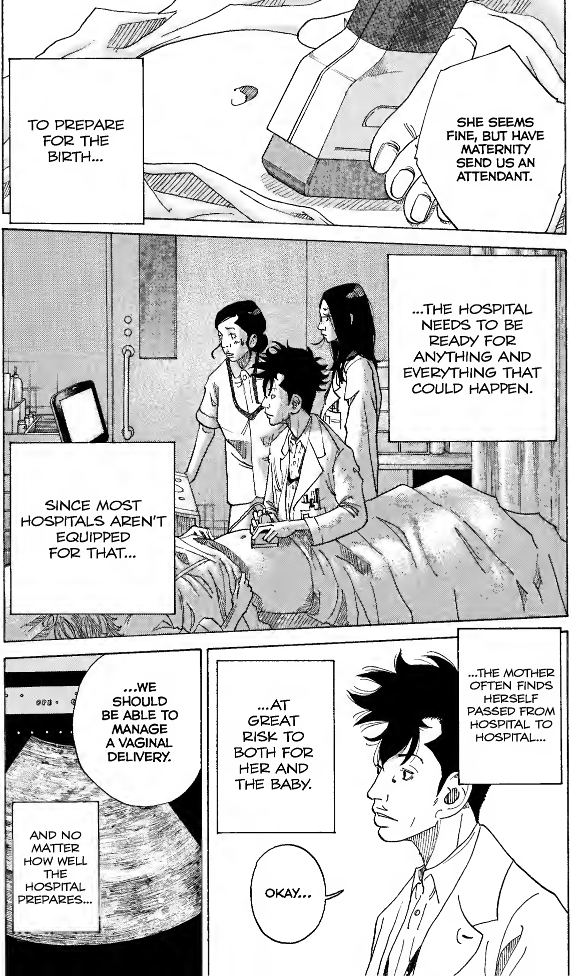

...FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, DON'T SHOW UP FOR THEIR PRENATAL CHECKUPS.
WE'VE ASKED FIVE OTHER HOSPITALS, AND THEY ALL TURNED US DOWN!
IN HOSPITALS ACROSS JAPAN, THEY'VE COME TO BE KNOWN...
...AS "STRAYS."
SHE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO MOVE FOR OVER AN HOUR!
NNGH...
Please, can't you take her in?
...
HOW BIG IS HER BELLY?
OH... R-RIGHT! UM, FAIRLY BIG!

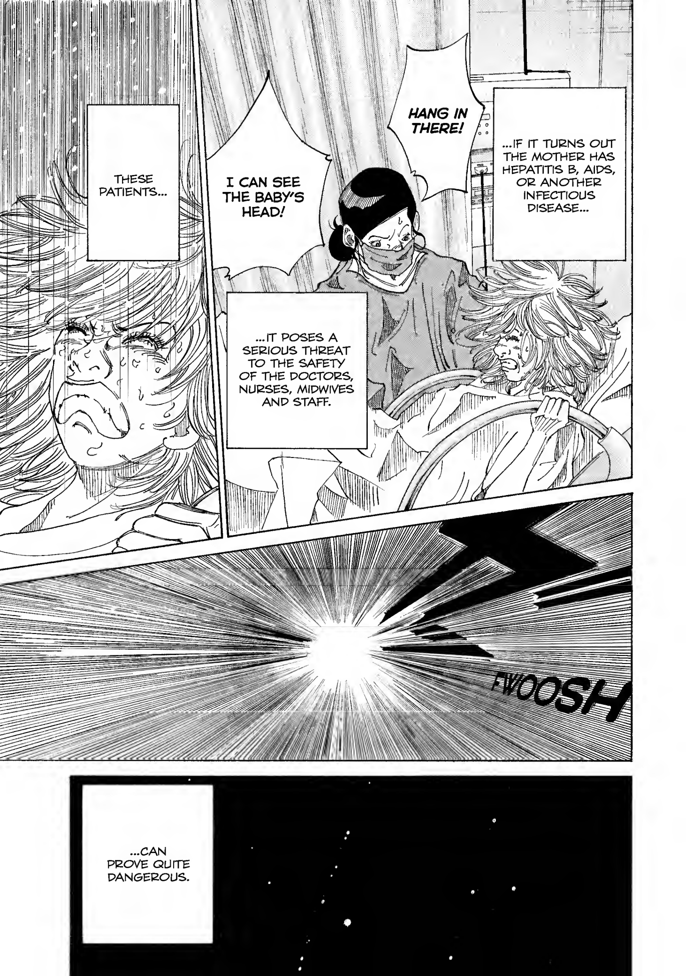

ガチャ
Click
WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY PATIENT.
WHEN STRAYS SHOW UP AT THE HOSPITAL JUST AS THEY'RE ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH...
A NEW MOTHER IN LABOR. SHE HASN'T SEEN A DOCTOR YET.
ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL TAKE HER. BRING HER IN.
...THEY CALL THEM DOORSTEP MOTHERS.
A DOORSTEP...
HEY ...
...
HEY! HANG ON! IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THE NICU IS FULL RIGHT NOW...
WE'LL NEED A SOCIAL WORKER WHILE WE'RE AT IT.

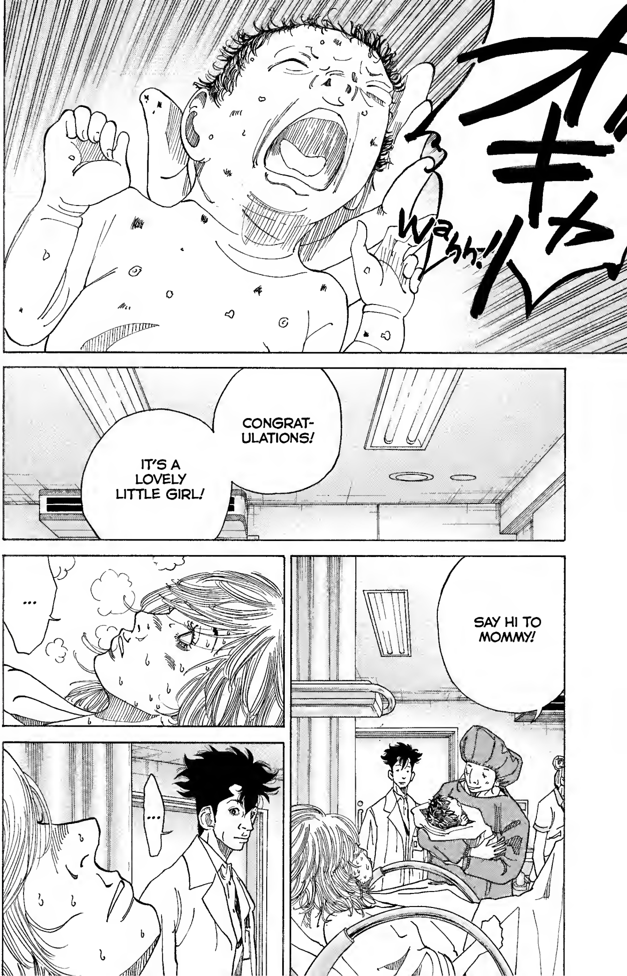
NICU: NEWBORN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

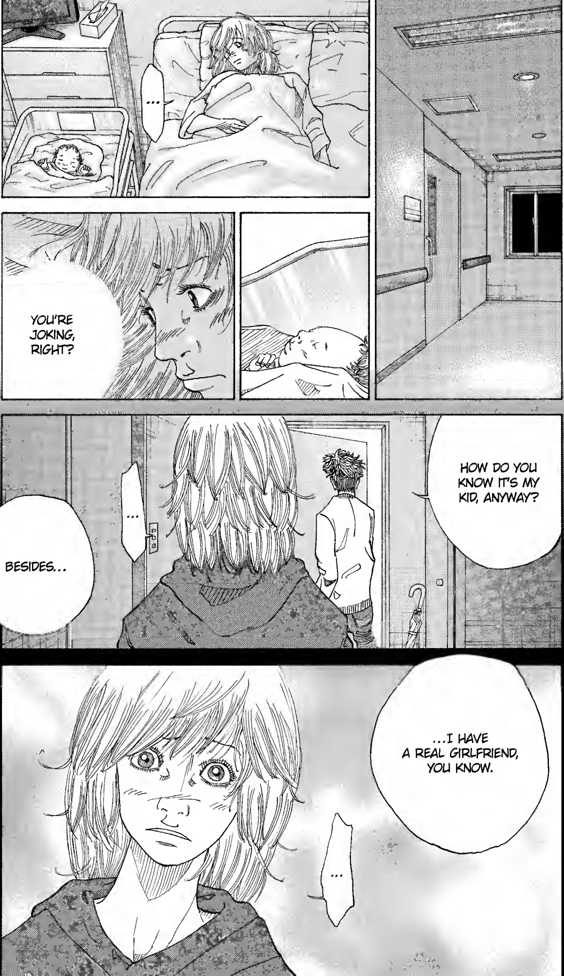

BESIDES, WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?
IT COULD CAUSE BIG PROBLEMS FOR THE MOTHERS WHO *DID* DO THEIR PRENATAL EXAMS!
I KNOW.
NOT SEEING A DOCTOR IS THE MOTHER'S MISTAKE, RIGHT?
HER LITTLE BABY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
WELL... WELL, SURE, BUT...
SHIMOYA.
FIRST THINGS FIRST, WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOW FAR ALONG SHE IS, THE WEIGHT OF THE FETUS, AND IF THERE ARE SIGNS OF MALPRESENTATION.
FIND OUT HOW THINGS ARE PROGRESSING.
...

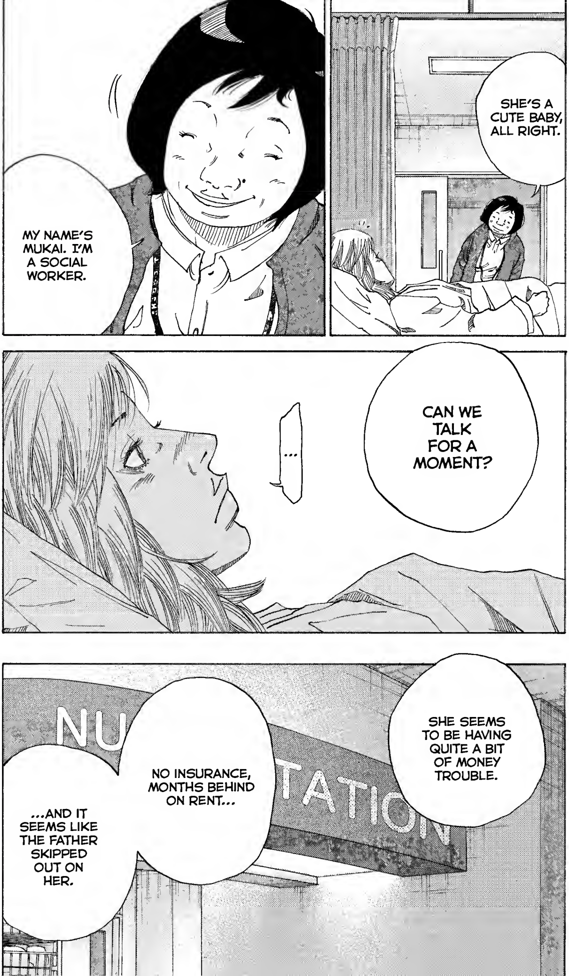

IF WE CAN'T DELIVER THE BABY HERE, WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO FIND A WOMEN'S HOSPITAL OR AN NICU TO TRANSFER THE MOTHER TO.
...
UN... UNDERSTOOD, DOCTOR!
WE NEED AN IV, STAT!
IT'S EXTREMELY RISKY FOR A HOSPITAL TO TAKE IN WOMEN WHO HAVEN'T DONE THEIR PRENATAL CHECKUPS.
AND BLOOD WORK, TOO!
SHIMOYA, GET ME AN ULTRASOUND!
WITHOUT KNOWING IF THE FETUS IS HEALTHY, OR WHETHER THE MOTHER IS SHOWING SIGNS OF INFECTION...
HER CERVIX IS DILATED TO EIGHT CENTIMETERS!
SHE'S 100% EFFACED!
...IT'S DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION.
ESTIMATED FETAL WEIGHT, 2600 GRAMS!

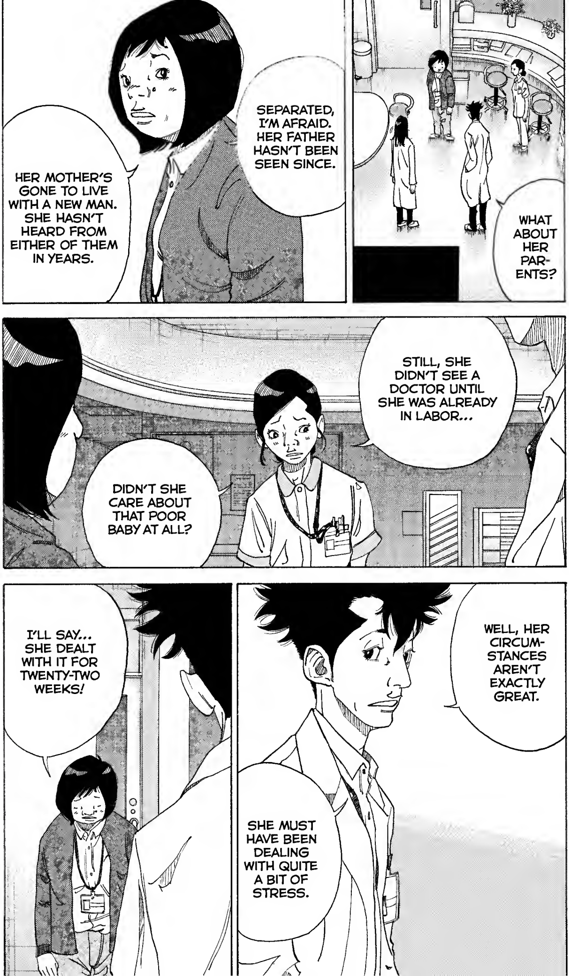

SHE SEEMS FINE, BUT HAVE MATERNITY SEND US AN ATTENDANT.
TO PREPARE FOR THE BIRTH...
...THE HOSPITAL NEEDS TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN.
SINCE MOST HOSPITALS AREN'T EQUIPPED FOR THAT...
...THE MOTHER OFTEN FINDS HERSELF PASSED FROM HOSPITAL TO HOSPITAL...
...AT GREAT RISK TO BOTH FOR HER AND THE BABY.
OKAY...
...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANAGE A VAGINAL DELIVERY.
AND NO MATTER HOW WELL THE HOSPITAL PREPARES...

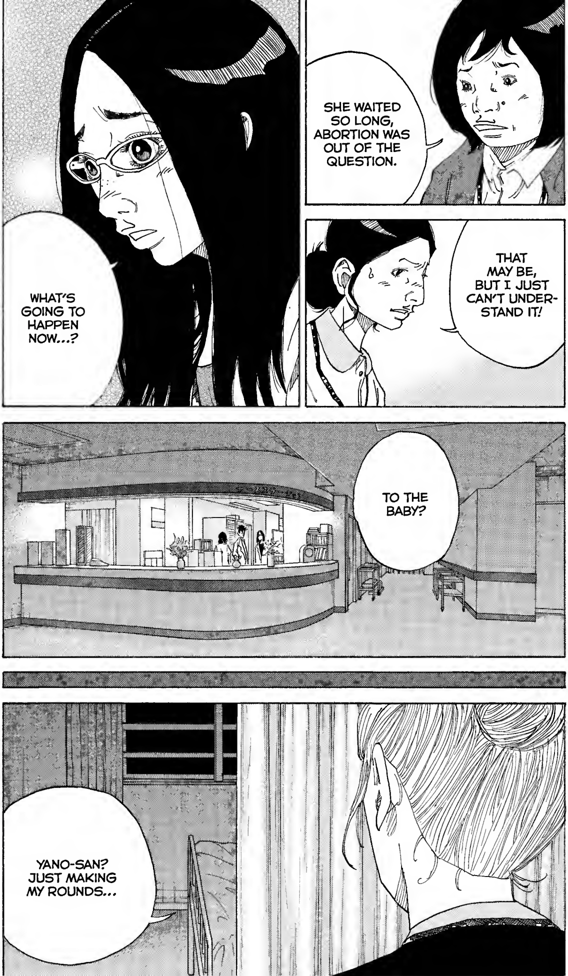

HANG IN THERE!
I CAN SEE THE BABY'S HEAD!
...IF IT TURNS OUT THE MOTHER HAS HEPATITIS B, AIDS, OR ANOTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASE...
...IT POSES A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF THE DOCTORS, NURSES, MIDWIVES AND STAFF.
THESE PATIENTS...
FWOOSH
...CAN PROVE QUITE DANGEROUS.

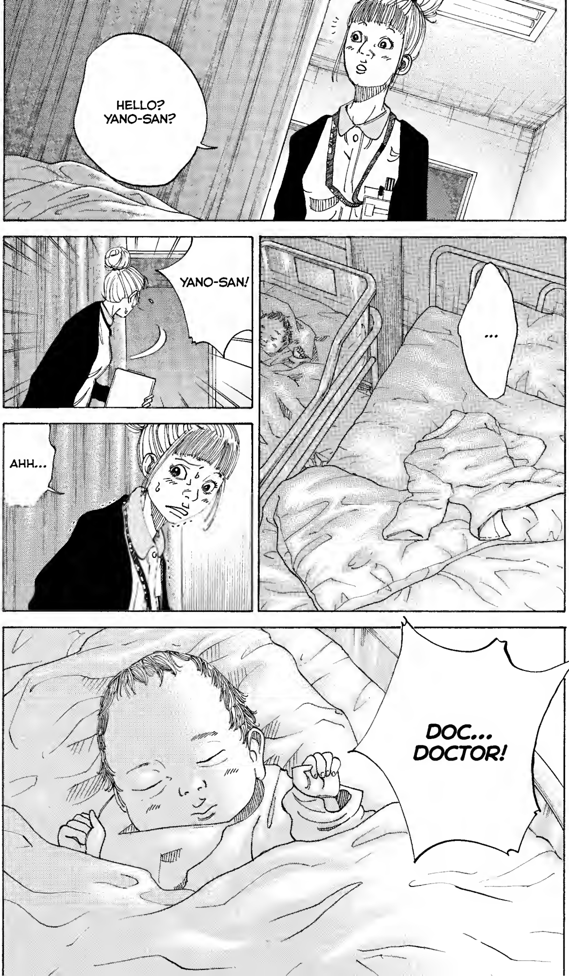

Wahh!!
CONGRAT-ULATIONS!
IT'S A LOVELY LITTLE GIRL!
SAY HI TO MOMMY!
...
...

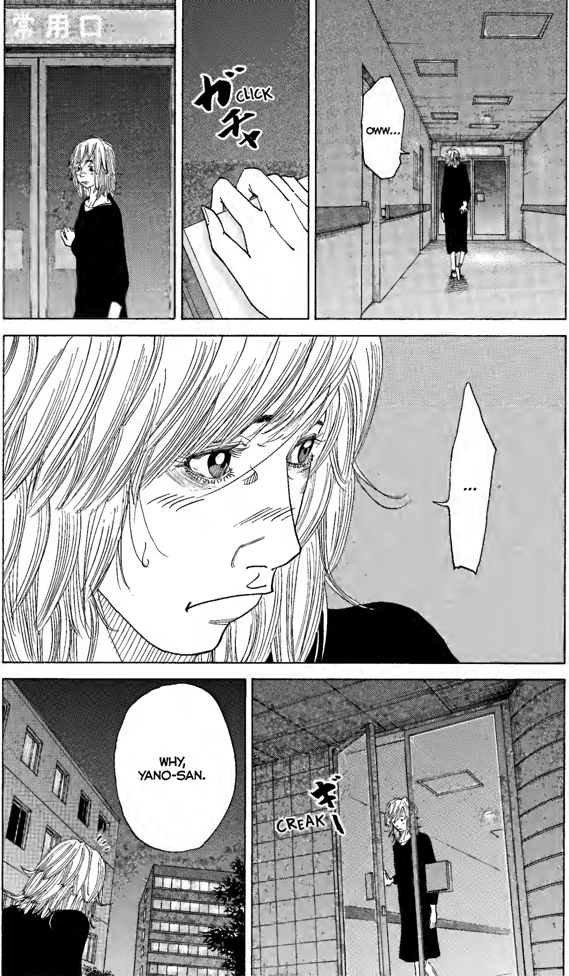

...
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S MY KID, ANYWAY?
...
BESIDES...
...I HAVE A REAL GIRLFRIEND, YOU KNOW.
...

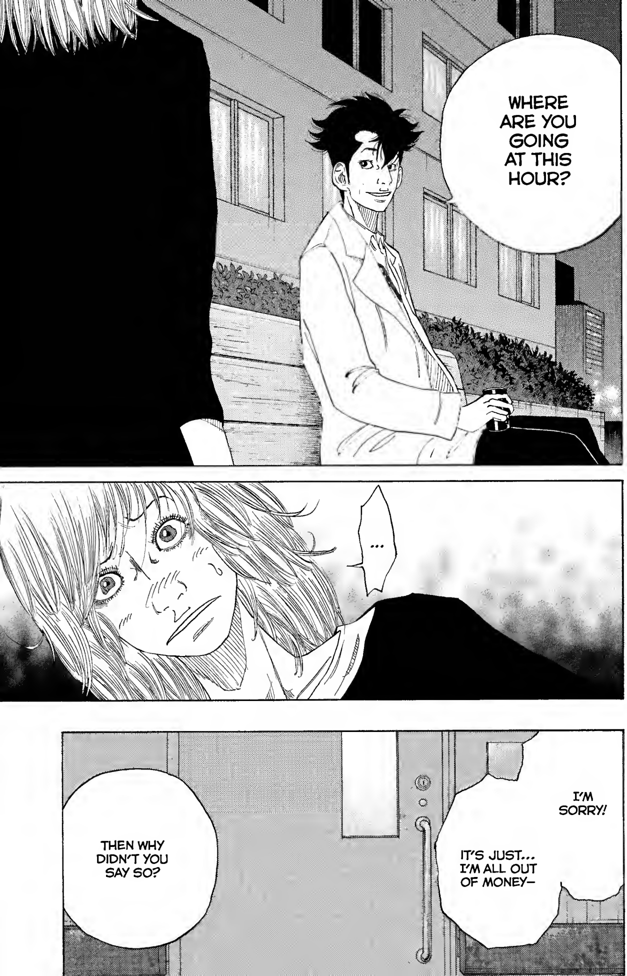

SHE'S A CUTE BABY, ALL RIGHT.
MY NAME'S MUKAI. I'M A SOCIAL WORKER.
CAN WE TALK FOR A MOMENT?
...
NU
TATION
SHE SEEMS TO BE HAVING QUITE A BIT OF MONEY TROUBLE.
NO INSURANCE, MONTHS BEHIND ON RENT...
...AND IT SEEMS LIKE THE FATHER SKIPPED OUT ON HER.

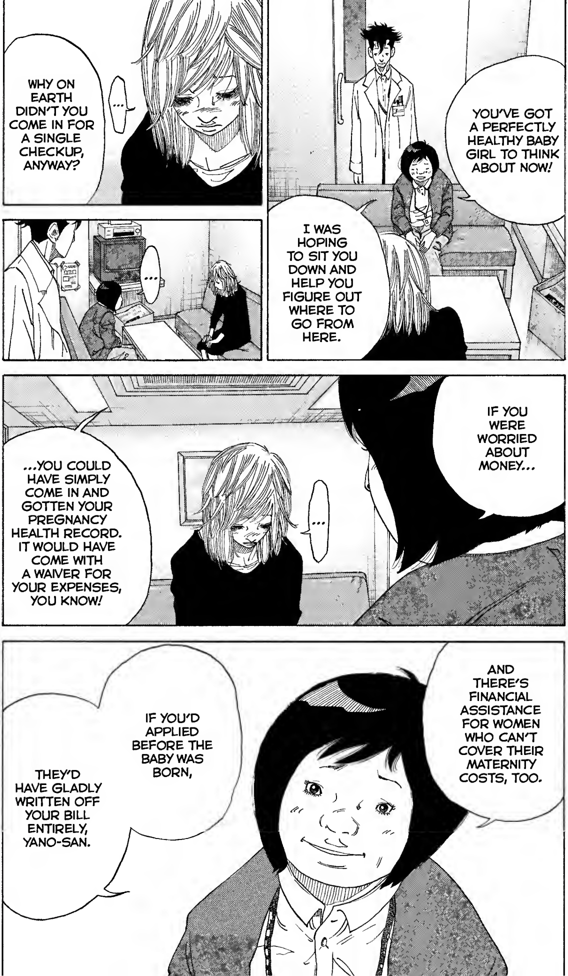

WHAT ABOUT HER PARENTS?
SEPARATED, I'M AFRAID. HER FATHER HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE.
HER MOTHER'S GONE TO LIVE WITH A NEW MAN. SHE HASN'T HEARD FROM EITHER OF THEM IN YEARS.
STILL, SHE DIDN'T SEE A DOCTOR UNTIL SHE WAS ALREADY IN LABOR...
DIDN'T SHE CARE ABOUT THAT POOR BABY AT ALL?
WELL, HER CIRCUMSTANCES AREN'T EXACTLY GREAT.
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH QUITE A BIT OF STRESS.
I'LL SAY... SHE DEALT WITH IT FOR TWENTY-TWO WEEKS!

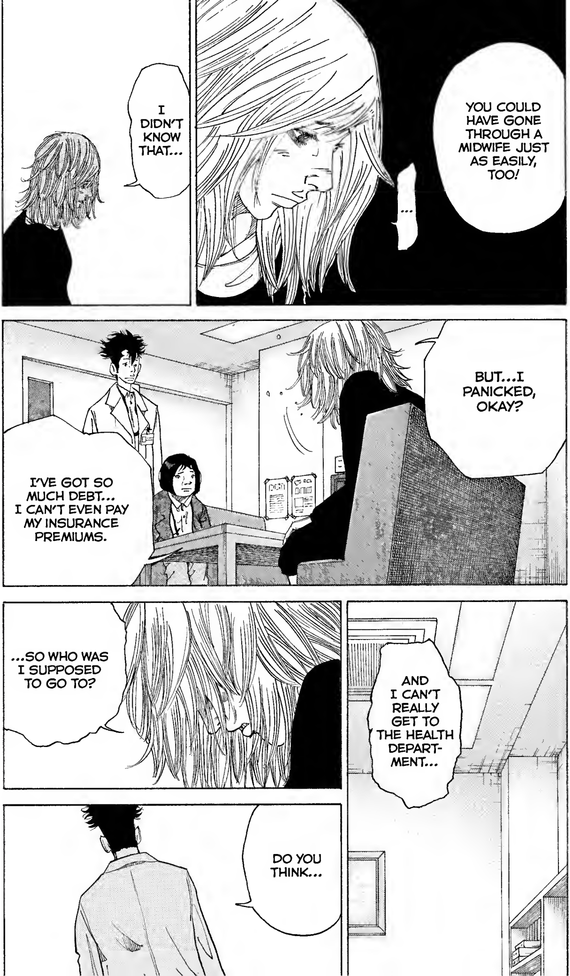

SHE WAITED SO LONG, ABORTION WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
THAT MAY BE, BUT I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW...?
TO THE BABY?
YANO-SAN? JUST MAKING MY ROUNDS...

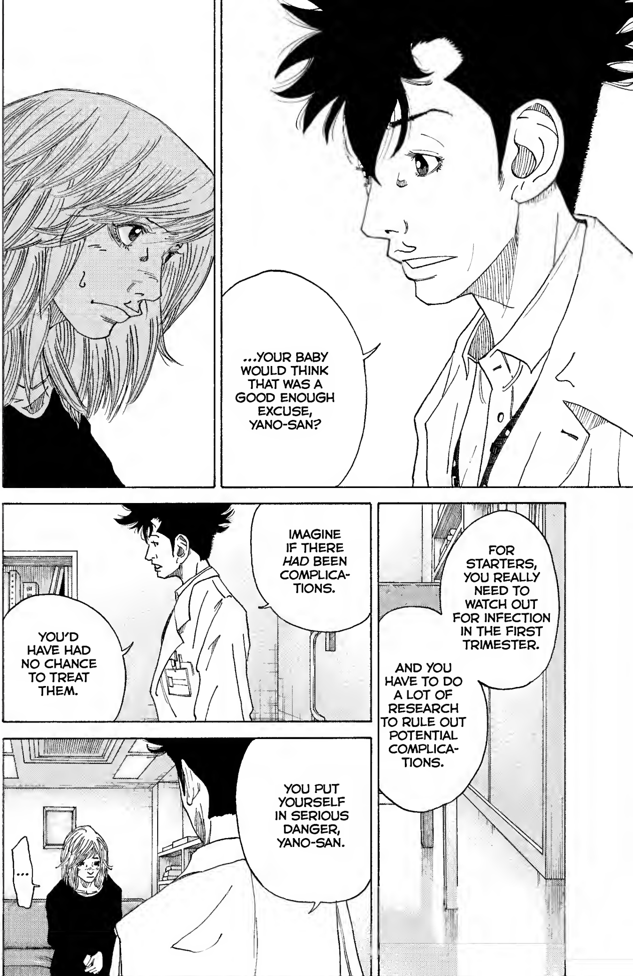

HELLO? YANO-SAN?
...
YANO-SAN!
AHH...
DOC... DOCTOR!

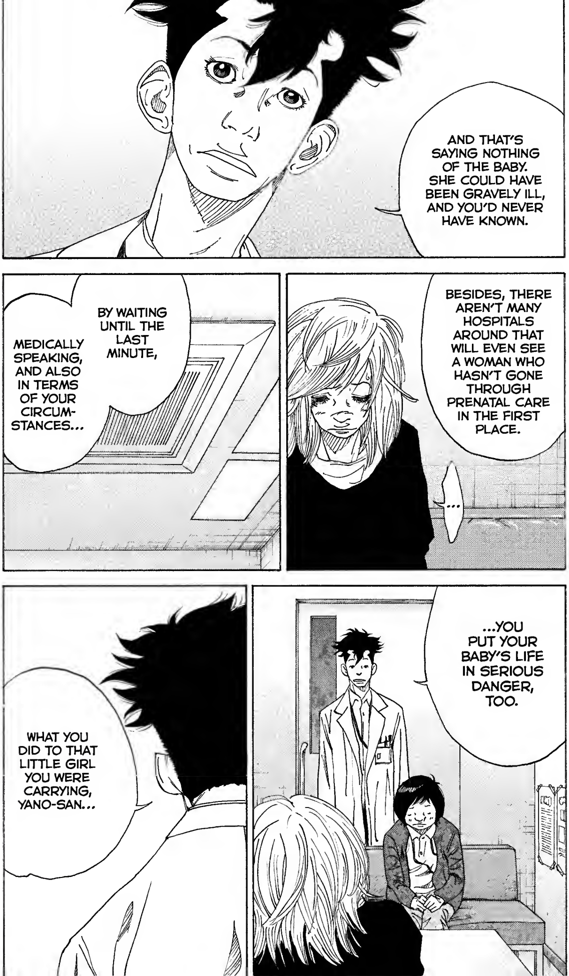

OWW...
ガチャ CLICK
常用口
...
ギィ CREAK
WHY, YANO-SAN.

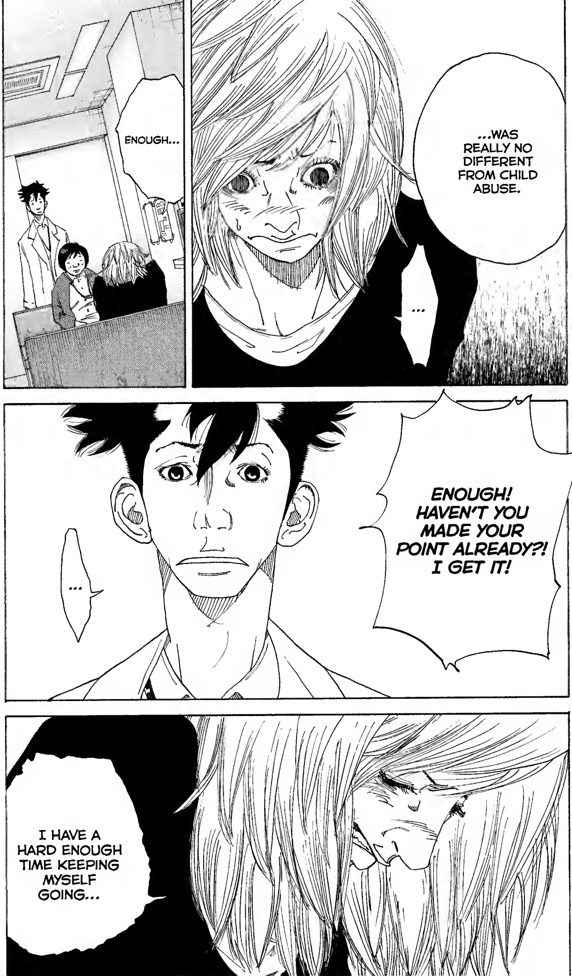

WHERE ARE YOU GOING AT THIS HOUR?
...
I'M SORRY!
IT'S JUST... I'M ALL OUT OF MONEY—
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

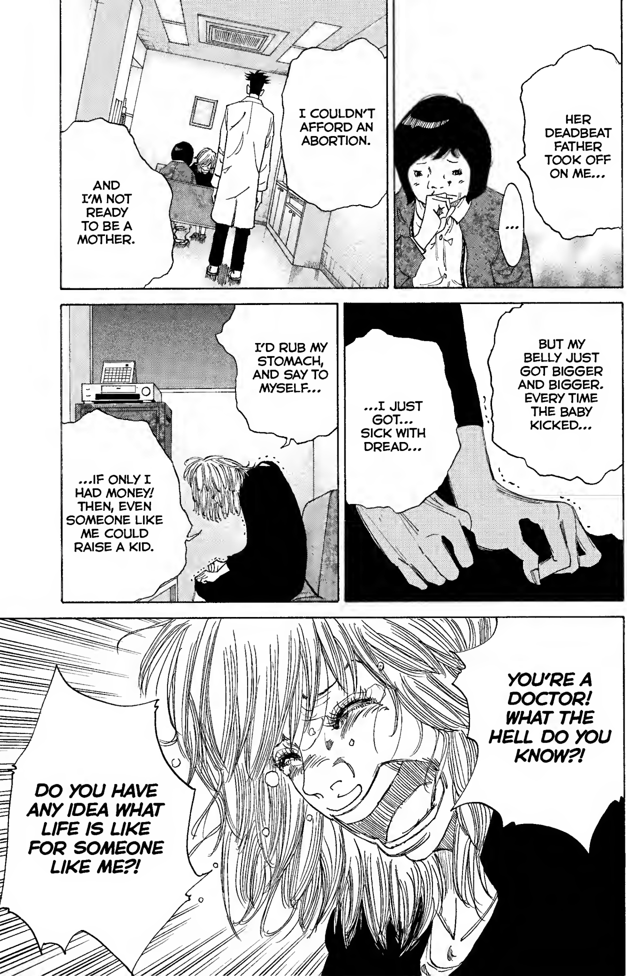

YOU'VE GOT A PERFECTLY HEALTHY BABY GIRL TO THINK ABOUT NOW!
I WAS HOPING TO SIT YOU DOWN AND HELP YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE TO GO FROM HERE.
WHY ON EARTH DIDN'T YOU COME IN FOR A SINGLE CHECKUP, ANYWAY?
...
...
IF YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT MONEY...
...
...YOU COULD HAVE SIMPLY COME IN AND GOTTEN YOUR PREGNANCY HEALTH RECORD. IT WOULD HAVE COME WITH A WAIVER FOR YOUR EXPENSES, YOU KNOW!
AND THERE'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN WHO CAN'T COVER THEIR MATERNITY COSTS, TOO.
IF YOU'D APPLIED BEFORE THE BABY WAS BORN,
THEY'D HAVE GLADLY WRITTEN OFF YOUR BILL ENTIRELY, YANO-SAN.

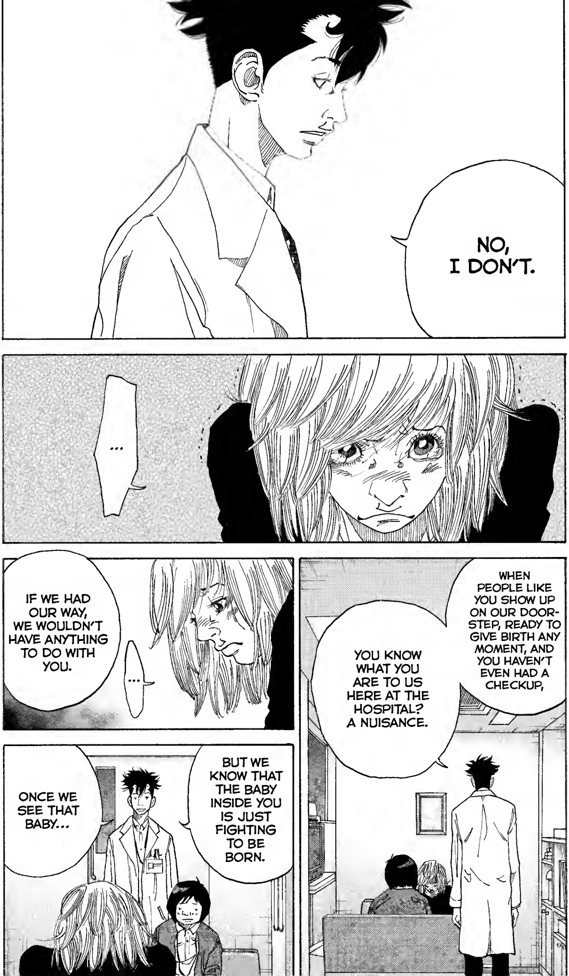

YOU COULD HAVE GONE THROUGH A MIDWIFE JUST AS EASILY, TOO!
...
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT...
BUT...I PANICKED, OKAY?
I'VE GOT SO MUCH DEBT... I CAN'T EVEN PAY MY INSURANCE PREMIUMS.
AND I CAN'T REALLY GET TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT...
...SO WHO WAS I SUPPOSED TO GO TO?
DO YOU THINK...

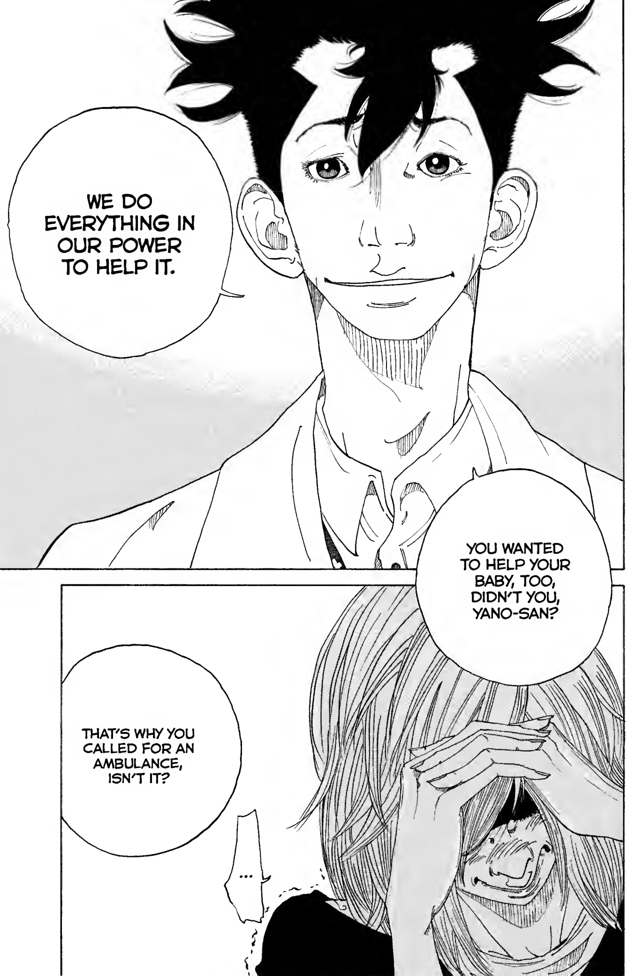

...YOUR BABY WOULD THINK THAT WAS A GOOD ENOUGH EXCUSE, YANO-SAN?
FOR STARTERS, YOU REALLY NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR INFECTION IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER.
AND YOU HAVE TO DO A LOT OF RESEARCH TO RULE OUT POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS.
IMAGINE IF THERE *HAD* BEEN COMPLICATIONS.
YOU'D HAVE HAD NO CHANCE TO TREAT THEM.
YOU PUT YOURSELF IN SERIOUS DANGER, YANO-SAN.
...

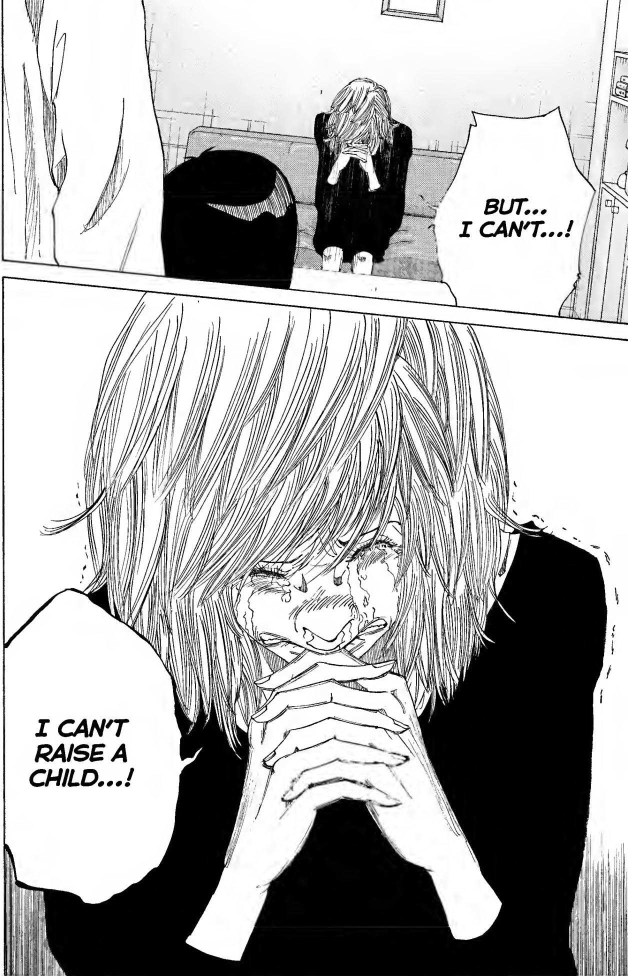

AND THAT'S SAYING NOTHING OF THE BABY. SHE COULD HAVE BEEN GRAVELY ILL, AND YOU'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN.
BESIDES, THERE AREN'T MANY HOSPITALS AROUND THAT WILL EVEN SEE A WOMAN WHO HASN'T GONE THROUGH PRENATAL CARE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
...
BY WAITING UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE,
MEDICALLY SPEAKING, AND ALSO IN TERMS OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES...
...YOU PUT YOUR BABY'S LIFE IN SERIOUS DANGER, TOO.
WHAT YOU DID TO THAT LITTLE GIRL YOU WERE CARRYING, YANO-SAN...

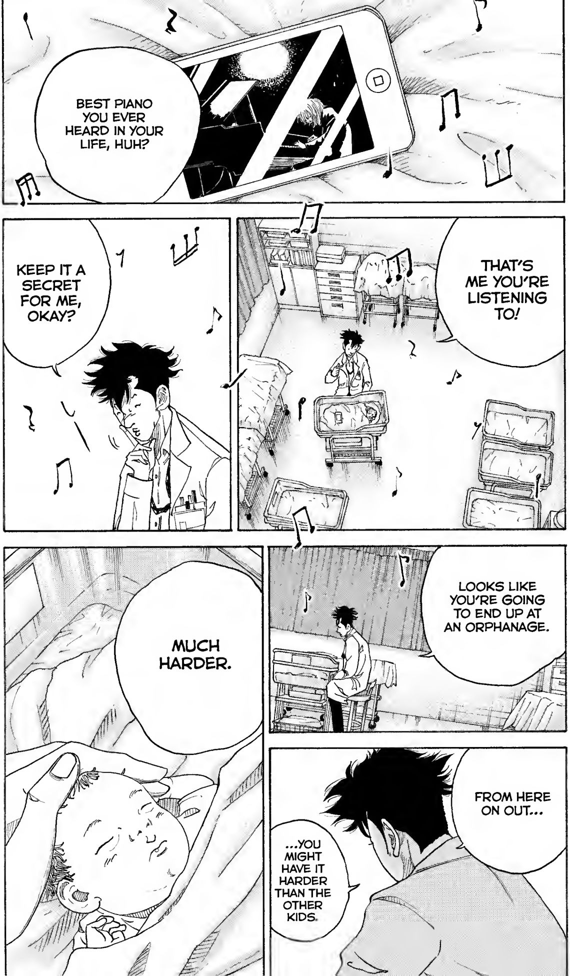

...WAS REALLY NO DIFFERENT FROM CHILD ABUSE.
...
ENOUGH...
ENOUGH! HAVEN'T YOU MADE YOUR POINT ALREADY?! I GET IT!
...
I HAVE A HARD ENOUGH TIME KEEPING MYSELF GOING...

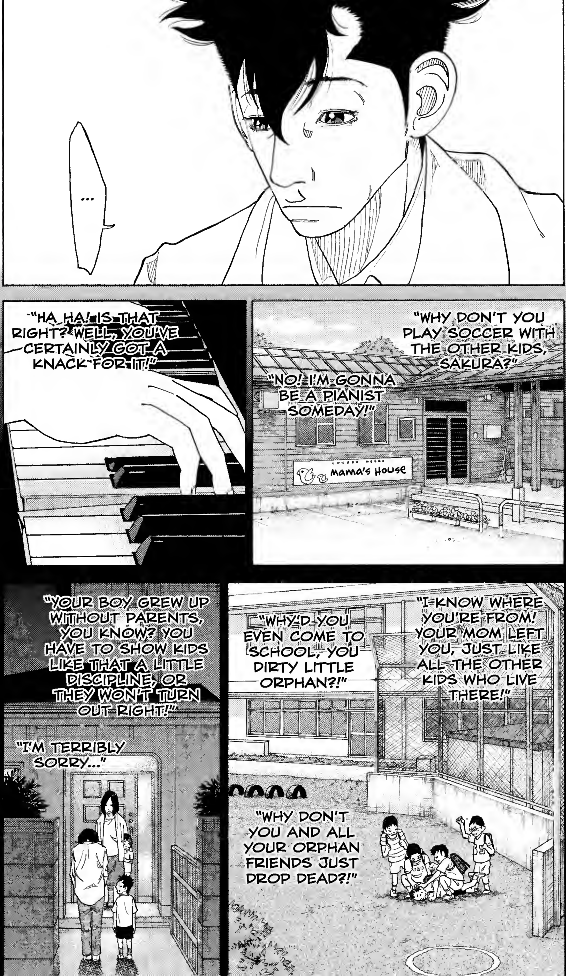

HER DEADBEAT FATHER TOOK OFF ON ME...
...
I COULDN'T AFFORD AN ABORTION.
AND I'M NOT READY TO BE A MOTHER.
BUT MY BELLY JUST GOT BIGGER AND BIGGER. EVERY TIME THE BABY KICKED...
...I JUST GOT... SICK WITH DREAD...
I'D RUB MY STOMACH, AND SAY TO MYSELF...
...IF ONLY I HAD MONEY! THEN, EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME COULD RAISE A KID.
YOU'RE A DOCTOR! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT LIFE IS LIKE FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?!

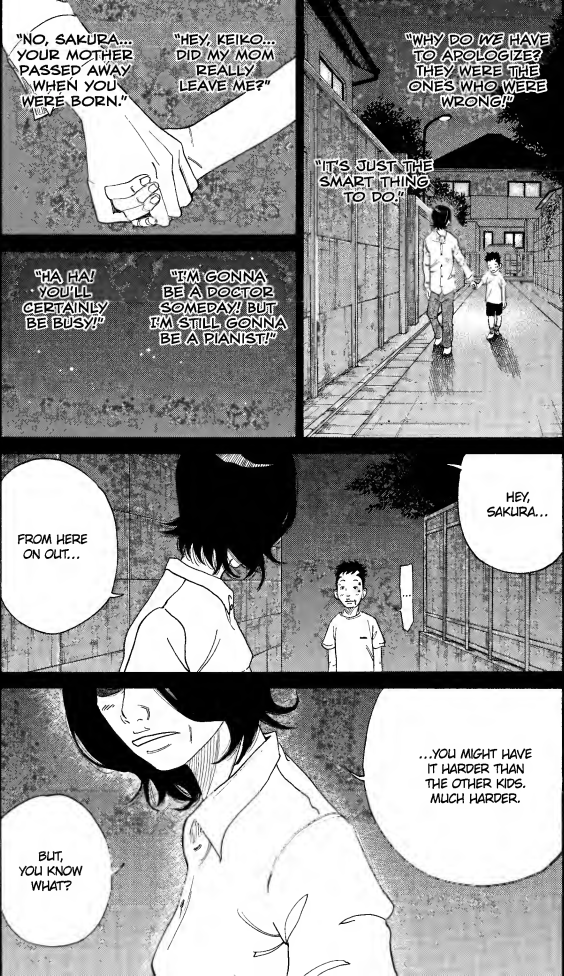

NO, I DON'T.
...
WHEN PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOW UP ON OUR DOORSTEP, READY TO GIVE BIRTH ANY MOMENT, AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HAD A CHECKUP,
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TO US HERE AT THE HOSPITAL? A NUISANCE.
IF WE HAD OUR WAY, WE WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
...
BUT WE KNOW THAT THE BABY INSIDE YOU IS JUST FIGHTING TO BE BORN.
ONCE WE SEE THAT BABY...

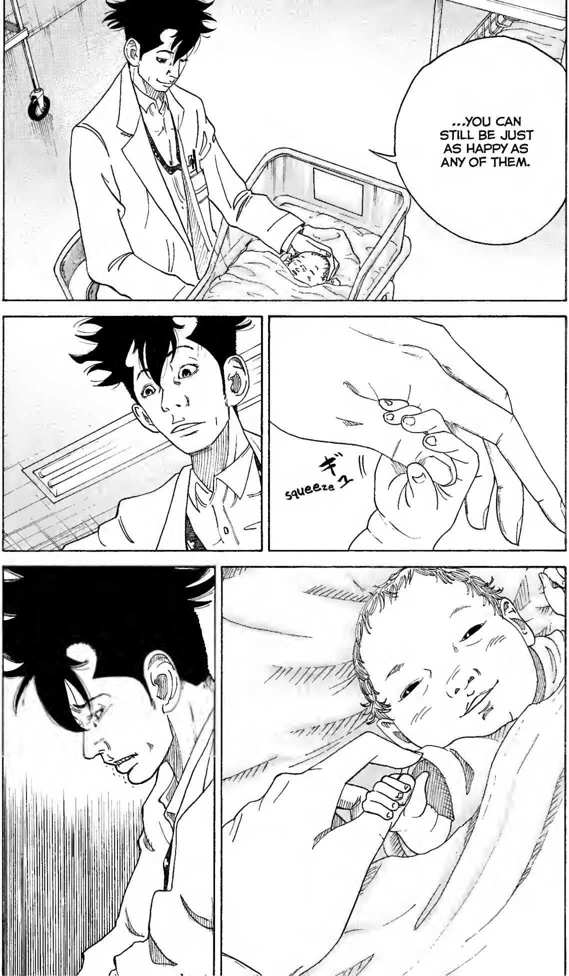

WE DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO HELP IT.
YOU WANTED TO HELP YOUR BABY, TOO, DIDN'T YOU, YANO-SAN?
THAT'S WHY YOU CALLED FOR AN AMBULANCE, ISN'T IT?
...

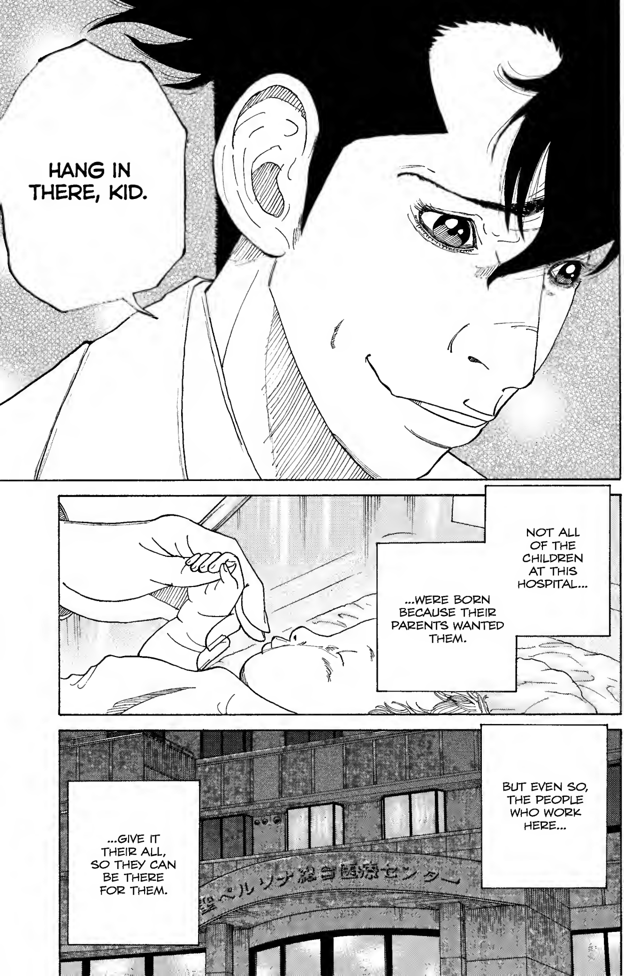

BUT... I CAN'T...!
I CAN'T RAISE A CHILD...!

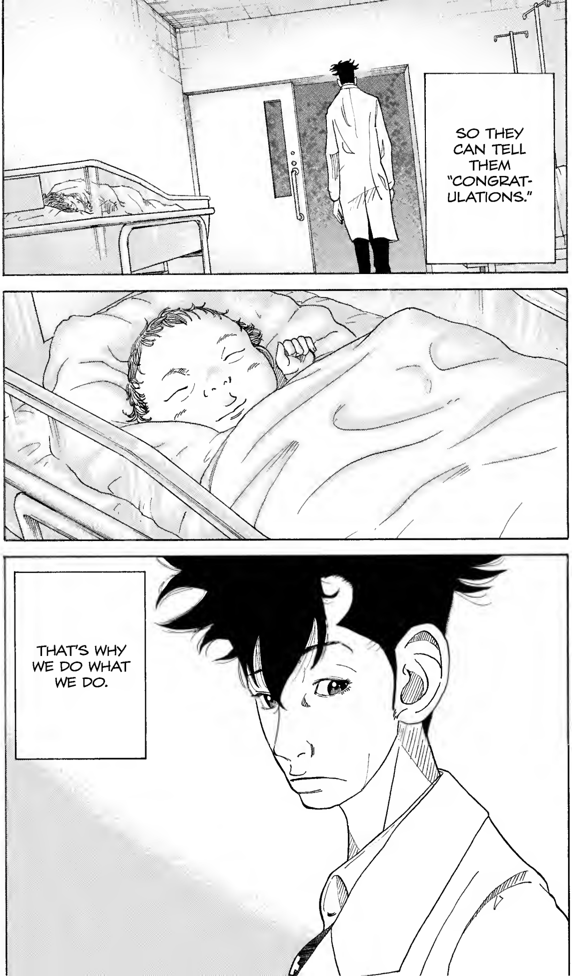

BEST PIANO YOU EVER HEARD IN YOUR LIFE, HUH?
THAT'S ME YOU'RE LISTENING TO!
KEEP IT A SECRET FOR ME, OKAY?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO END UP AT AN ORPHANAGE.
FROM HERE ON OUT...
...YOU MIGHT HAVE IT HARDER THAN THE OTHER KIDS.
MUCH HARDER.


...
"WHY DON'T YOU PLAY SOCCER WITH THE OTHER KIDS, SAKURA?"
"NO! I'M GONNA BE A PIANIST SOMEDAY!"
mama's House
"HA HA! IS THAT RIGHT? WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT A KNACK FOR IT!"
"I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE FROM! YOUR MOM LEFT YOU, JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER KIDS WHO LIVE THERE!"
"WHY'D YOU EVEN COME TO SCHOOL, YOU DIRTY LITTLE ORPHAN?!"
"WHY DON'T YOU AND ALL YOUR ORPHAN FRIENDS JUST DROP DEAD?!"
"YOUR BOY GREW UP WITHOUT PARENTS, YOU KNOW? YOU HAVE TO SHOW KIDS LIKE THAT A LITTLE DISCIPLINE, OR THEY WON'T TURN OUT RIGHT!"
"I'M TERRIBLY SORRY..."


"WHY DO *WE* HAVE TO APOLOGIZE? THEY WERE THE ONES WHO WERE WRONG!"
"IT'S JUST THE SMART THING TO DO."
"HEY, KEIKO... DID MY MOM REALLY LEAVE ME?"
"NO, SAKURA... YOUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN YOU WERE BORN."
"I'M GONNA BE A DOCTOR SOMEDAY! BUT I'M STILL GONNA BE A PIANIST!"
"HA HA! YOU'LL CERTAINLY BE BUSY!"
HEY, SAKURA...
...
FROM HERE ON OUT...
...YOU MIGHT HAVE IT HARDER THAN THE OTHER KIDS. MUCH HARDER.
BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT?


...YOU CAN STILL BE JUST AS HAPPY AS ANY OF THEM.
ギュ
squeeze


HANG IN THERE, KID.
NOT ALL OF THE CHILDREN AT THIS HOSPITAL...
...WERE BORN BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS WANTED THEM.
BUT EVEN SO, THE PEOPLE WHO WORK HERE...
...GIVE IT THEIR ALL, SO THEY CAN BE THERE FOR THEM.
聖ペルソナ総合医療センター


SO THEY CAN TELL THEM "CONGRATULATIONS."
THAT'S WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

DOORSTEP MOTHER / END

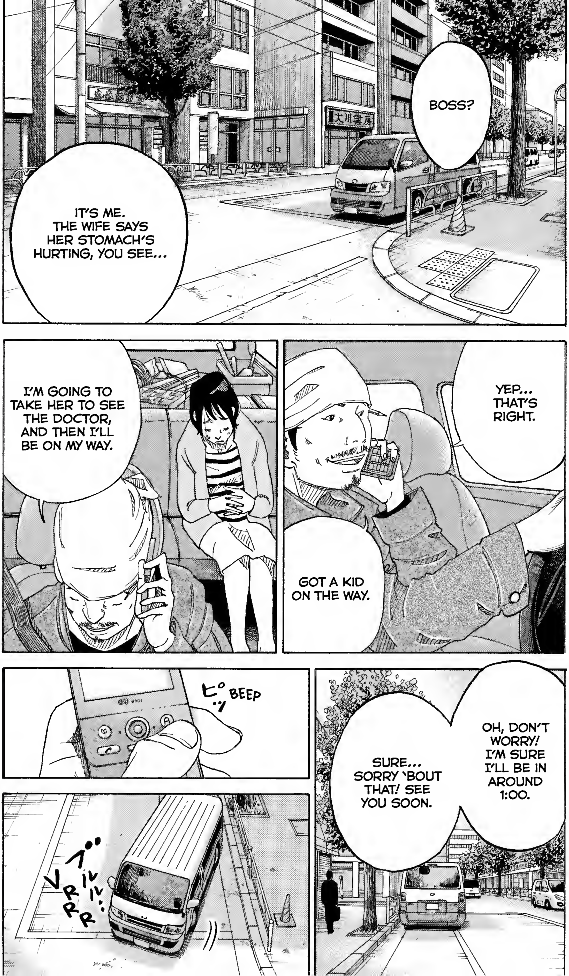
What's this supposed to be?

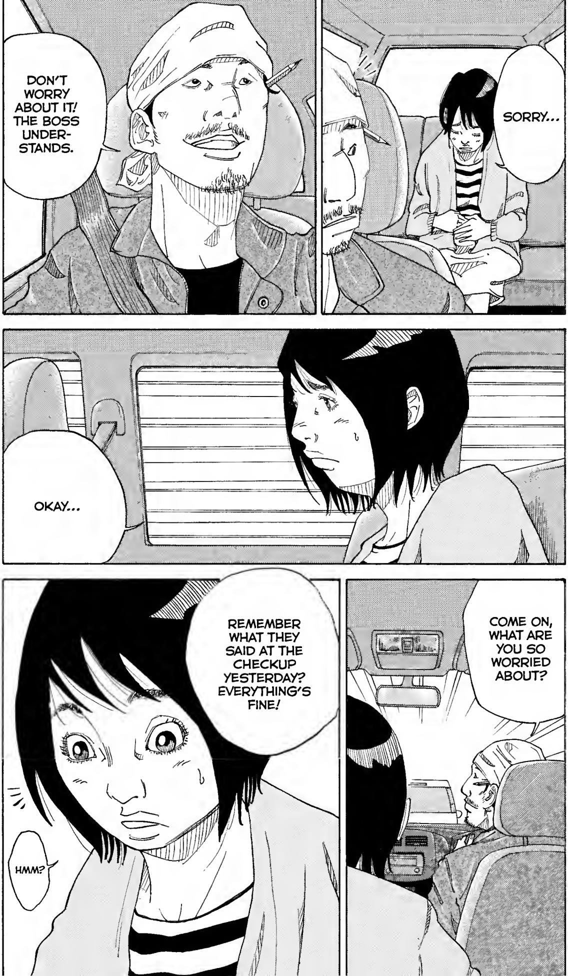
Tenta, 21 Months Old

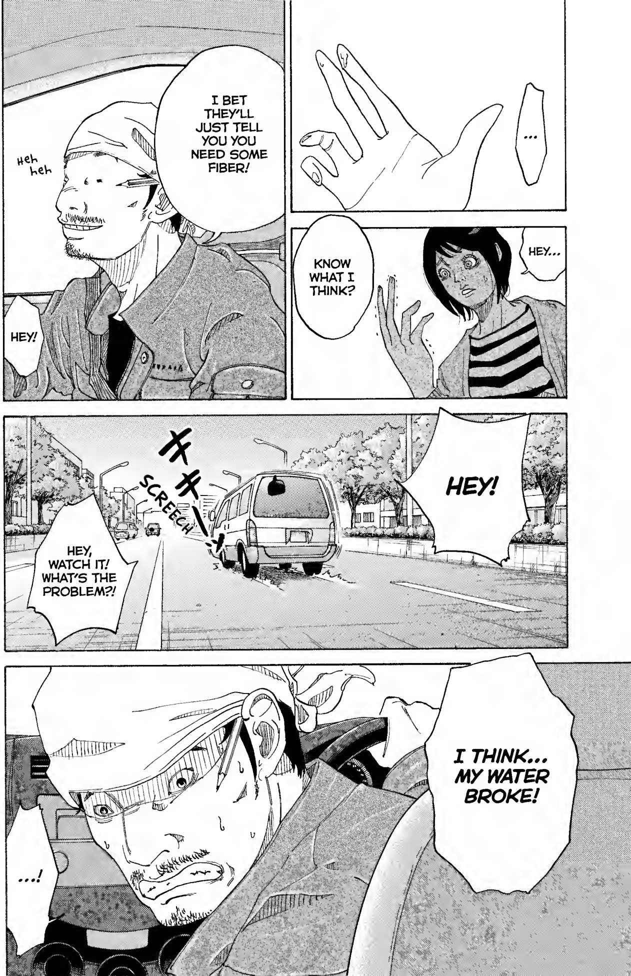
TRACK 2

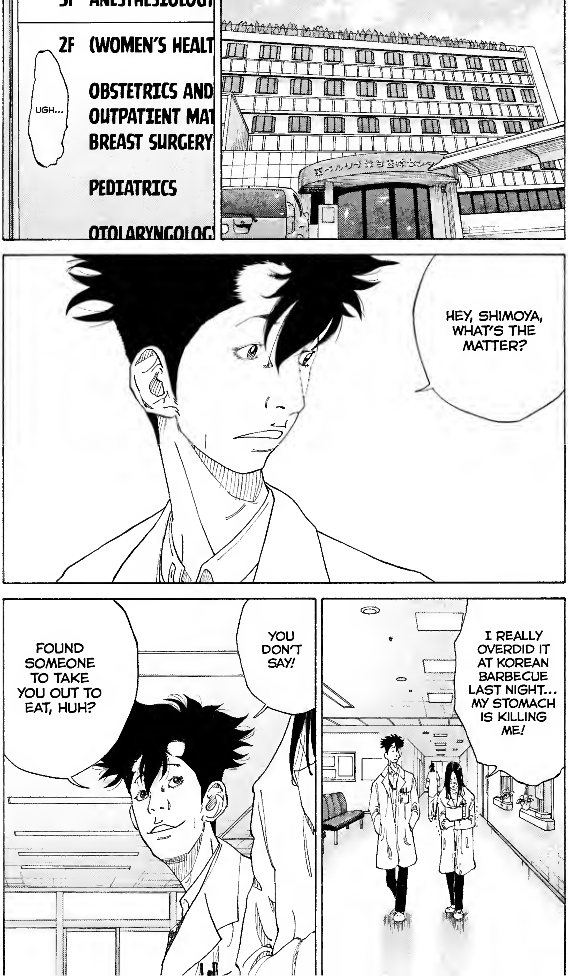
Threatened Miscarriage (1)

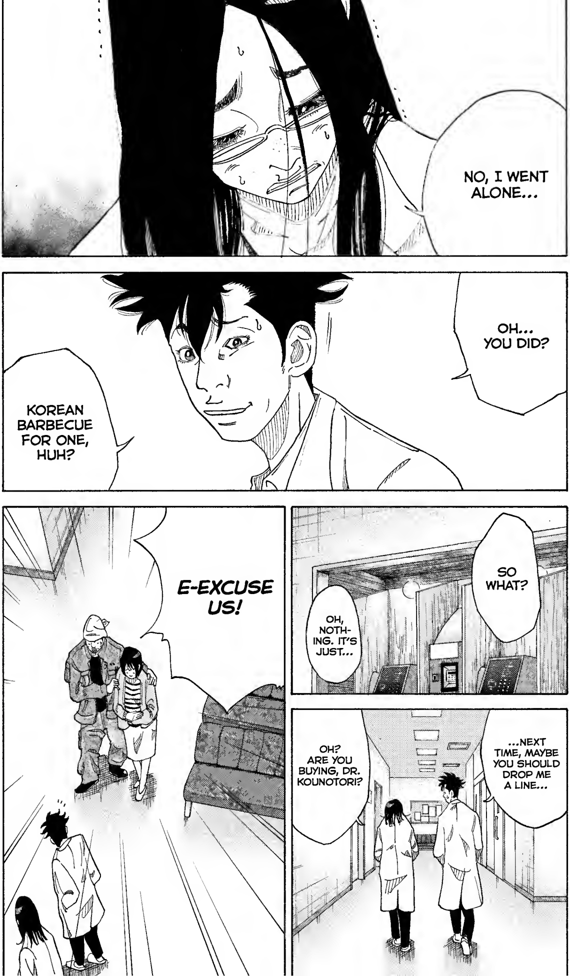
THREATENED MISCARRIAGE (1)

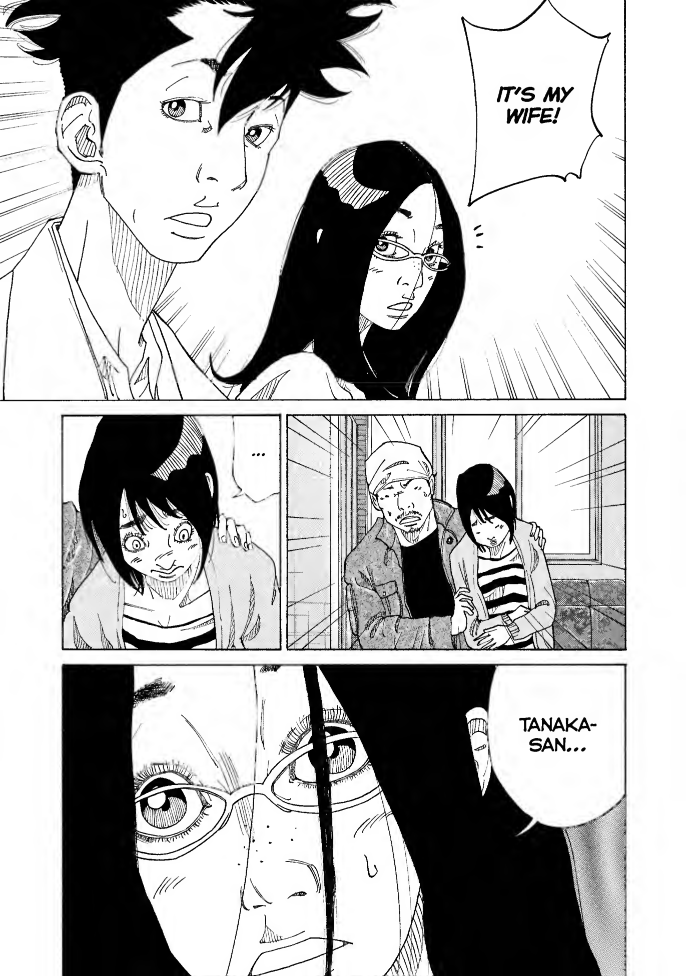

BOSS?
IT'S ME. THE WIFE SAYS HER STOMACH'S HURTING, YOU SEE...
大川書房
YEP... THAT'S RIGHT.
GOT A KID ON THE WAY.
I'M GOING TO TAKE HER TO SEE THE DOCTOR, AND THEN I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
OH, DON'T WORRY! I'M SURE I'LL BE IN AROUND 1:00.
SURE... SORRY 'BOUT THAT! SEE YOU SOON.
ピッ BEEP
ブルルル VRRR

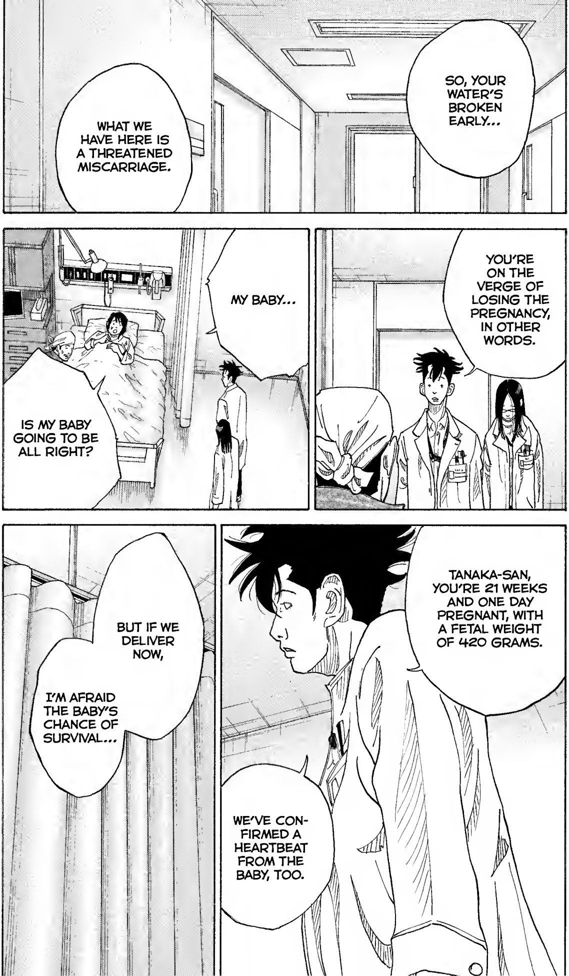

SORRY...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! THE BOSS UNDERSTANDS.
OKAY...
COME ON, WHAT ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT?
REMEMBER WHAT THEY SAID AT THE CHECKUP YESTERDAY? EVERYTHING'S FINE!
HMM?

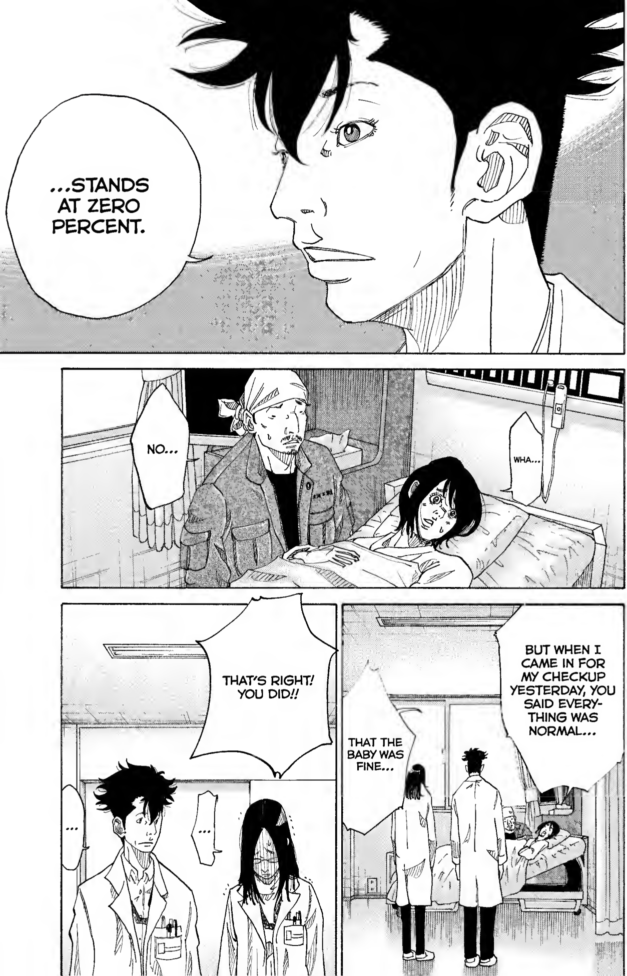

heh heh
I BET THEY'LL JUST TELL YOU YOU NEED SOME FIBER!
HEY!
...
HEY...
KNOW WHAT I THINK?
HEY!
キキー
SCREECH
HEY, WATCH IT! WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?!
I THINK... MY WATER BROKE!
...!

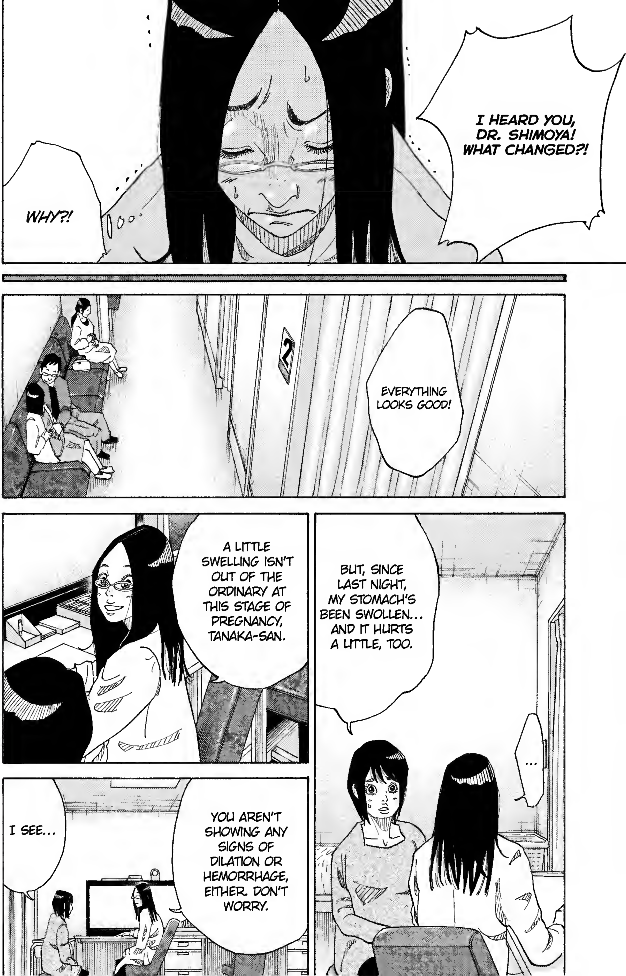

聖ペルソナ総合医療センタ
3F ANESTHESIOLOG
2F (WOMEN'S HEALT
OBSTETRICS AND
OUTPATIENT MAT
BREAST SURGERY
PEDIATRICS
OTOLARYNGOLOG
UGH...
HEY, SHIMOYA, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I REALLY OVERDID IT AT KOREAN BARBECUE LAST NIGHT... MY STOMACH IS KILLING ME!
YOU DON'T SAY!
FOUND SOMEONE TO TAKE YOU OUT TO EAT, HUH?

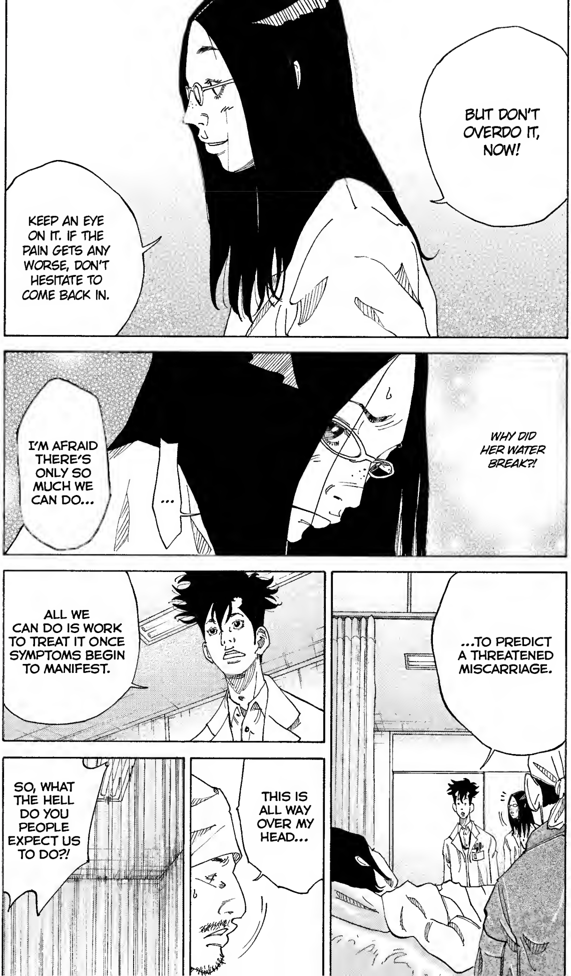

NO, I WENT ALONE...
OH... YOU DID?
KOREAN BARBECUE FOR ONE, HUH?
SO WHAT?
OH, NOTHING. IT'S JUST...
...NEXT TIME, MAYBE YOU SHOULD DROP ME A LINE...
OH? ARE YOU BUYING, DR. KOUNOTORI?
E-EXCUSE US!

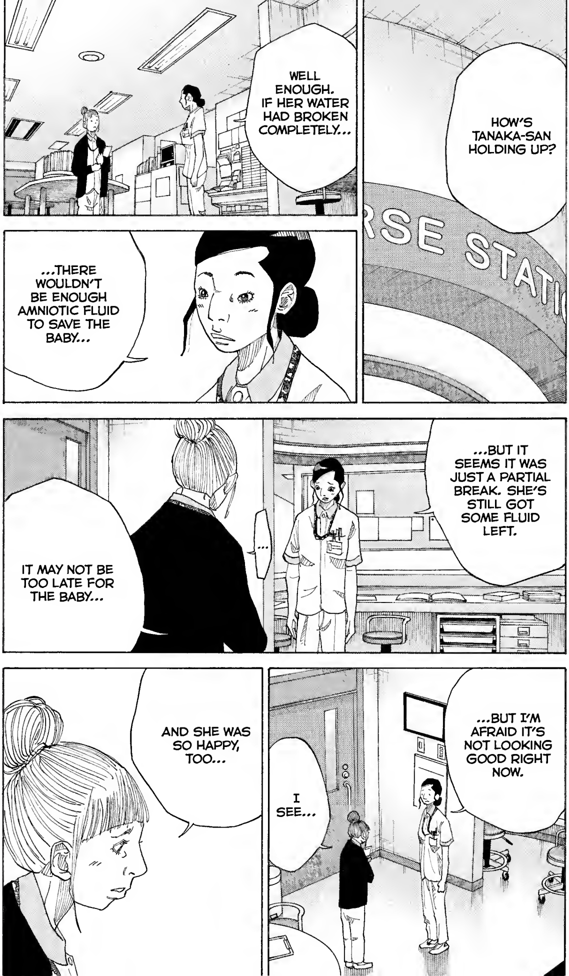

IT'S MY WIFE!
...
TANAKA-SAN...

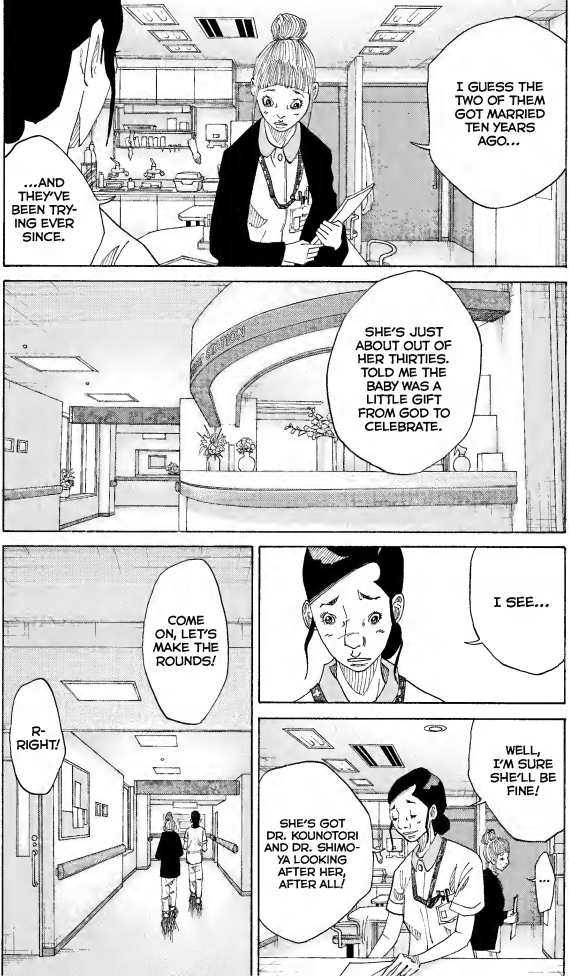

SO, YOUR WATER'S BROKEN EARLY...
WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A THREATENED MISCARRIAGE.
YOU'RE ON THE VERGE OF LOSING THE PREGNANCY, IN OTHER WORDS.
MY BABY...
IS MY BABY GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
TANAKA-SAN, YOU'RE 21 WEEKS AND ONE DAY PREGNANT, WITH A FETAL WEIGHT OF 420 GRAMS.
WE'VE CONFIRMED A HEARTBEAT FROM THE BABY, TOO.
BUT IF WE DELIVER NOW,
I'M AFRAID THE BABY'S CHANCE OF SURVIVAL...

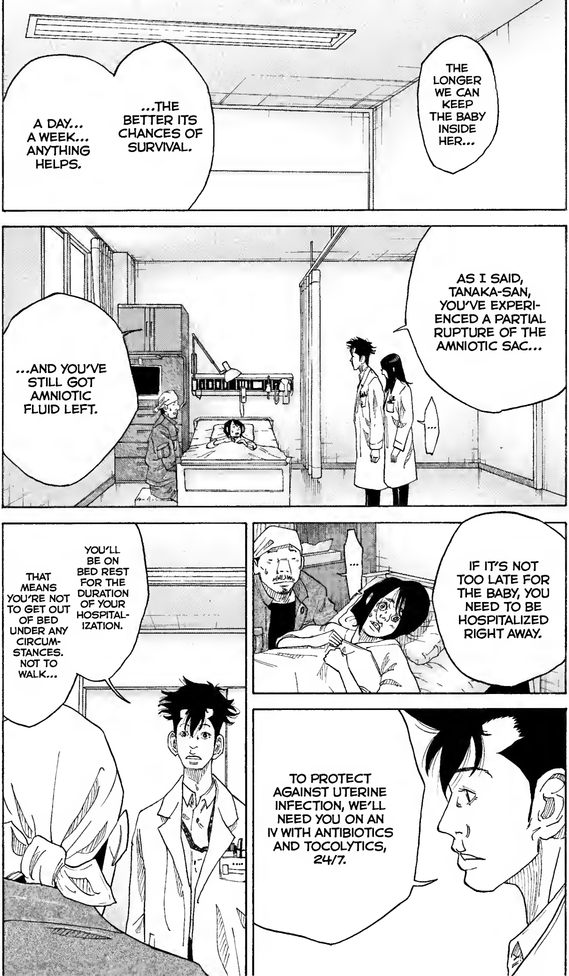

...STANDS AT ZERO PERCENT.
WHA...
NO...
BUT WHEN I CAME IN FOR MY CHECKUP YESTERDAY, YOU SAID EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL...
THAT THE BABY WAS FINE...
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU DID!!
...
...

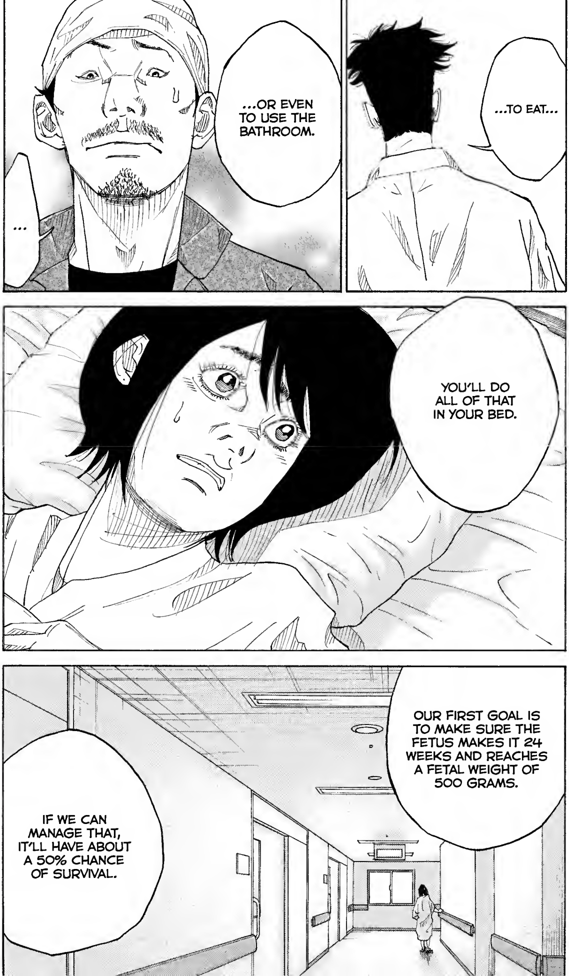

I HEARD YOU, DR. SHIMOYA! WHAT CHANGED?!
WHY?!
EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD!
BUT, SINCE LAST NIGHT, MY STOMACH'S BEEN SWOLLEN… AND IT HURTS A LITTLE, TOO.
…
A LITTLE SWELLING ISN'T OUT OF THE ORDINARY AT THIS STAGE OF PREGNANCY, TANAKA-SAN.
YOU AREN'T SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF DILATION OR HEMORRHAGE, EITHER. DON'T WORRY.
I SEE…

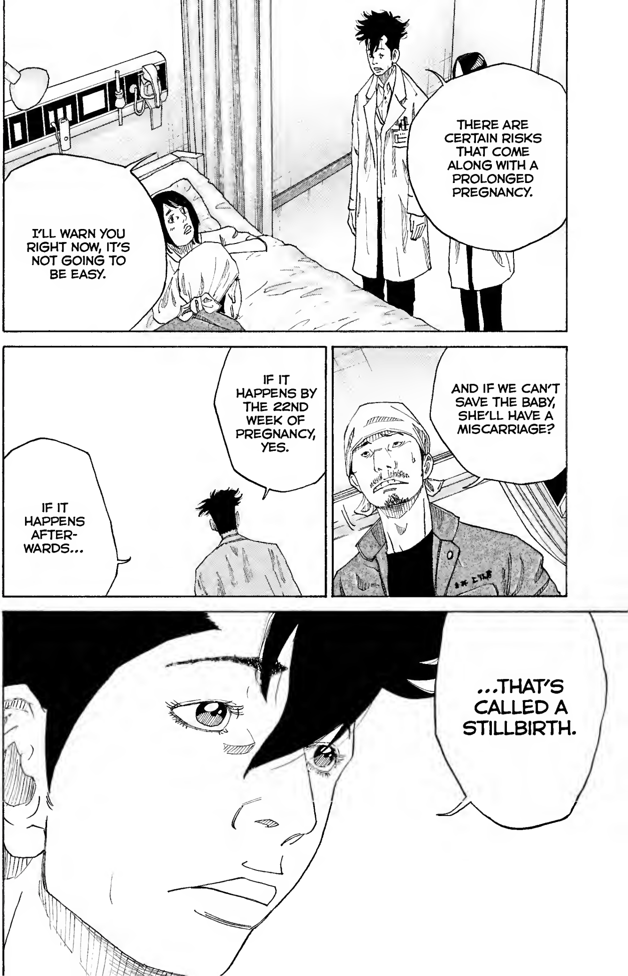

BUT DON'T OVERDO IT, NOW!
KEEP AN EYE ON IT. IF THE PAIN GETS ANY WORSE, DON'T HESITATE TO COME BACK IN.
WHY DID HER WATER BREAK?!
...
I'M AFRAID THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH WE CAN DO...
...TO PREDICT A THREATENED MISCARRIAGE.
ALL WE CAN DO IS WORK TO TREAT IT ONCE SYMPTOMS BEGIN TO MANIFEST.
THIS IS ALL WAY OVER MY HEAD...
SO, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU PEOPLE EXPECT US TO DO?!

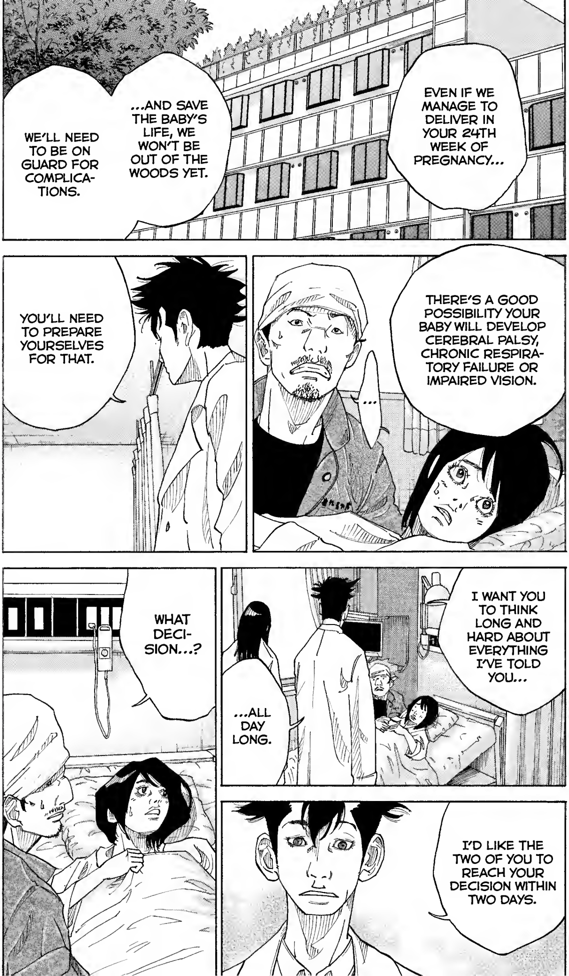

HOW'S TANAKA-SAN HOLDING UP?
RSE STATI
WELL ENOUGH. IF HER WATER HAD BROKEN COMPLETELY...
...THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH AMNIOTIC FLUID TO SAVE THE BABY...
...BUT IT SEEMS IT WAS JUST A PARTIAL BREAK. SHE'S STILL GOT SOME FLUID LEFT.
...
IT MAY NOT BE TOO LATE FOR THE BABY...
...BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD RIGHT NOW.
I SEE...
AND SHE WAS SO HAPPY, TOO...

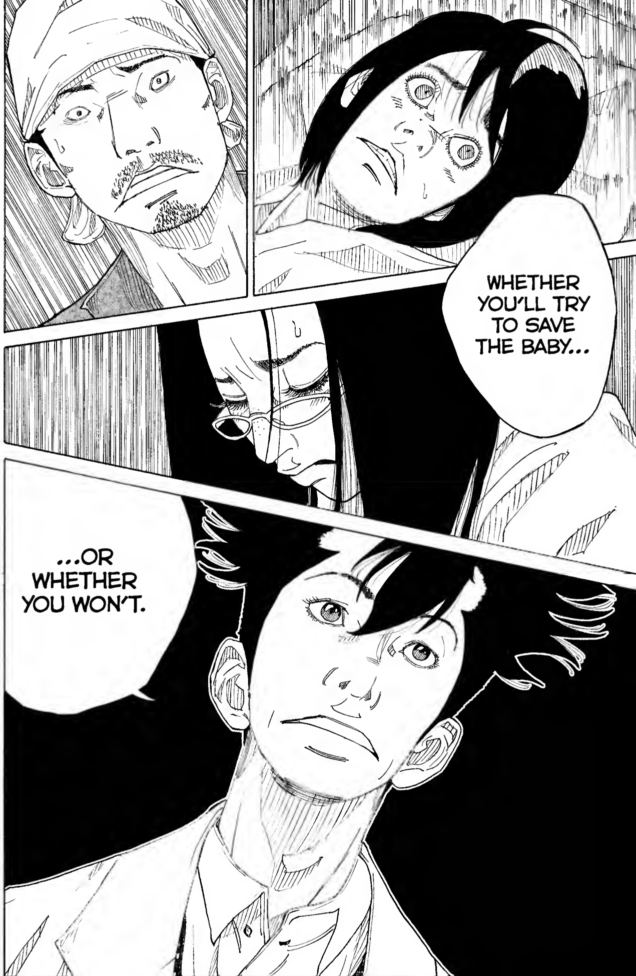

I GUESS THE TWO OF THEM GOT MARRIED TEN YEARS AGO...
...AND THEY'VE BEEN TRYING EVER SINCE.
STATION
SHE'S JUST ABOUT OUT OF HER THIRTIES. TOLD ME THE BABY WAS A LITTLE GIFT FROM GOD TO CELEBRATE.
I SEE...
WELL, I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE!
SHE'S GOT DR. KOUNOTORI AND DR. SHIMOYA LOOKING AFTER HER, AFTER ALL!
...
COME ON, LET'S MAKE THE ROUNDS!
R-RIGHT!


THE LONGER WE CAN KEEP THE BABY INSIDE HER...
...THE BETTER ITS CHANCES OF SURVIVAL.
A DAY... A WEEK... ANYTHING HELPS.
AS I SAID, TANAKA-SAN, YOU'VE EXPERIENCED A PARTIAL RUPTURE OF THE AMNIOTIC SAC...
...
...AND YOU'VE STILL GOT AMNIOTIC FLUID LEFT.
IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR THE BABY, YOU NEED TO BE HOSPITALIZED RIGHT AWAY.
...
TO PROTECT AGAINST UTERINE INFECTION, WE'LL NEED YOU ON AN IV WITH ANTIBIOTICS AND TOCOLYTICS, 24/7.
YOU'LL BE ON BED REST FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR HOSPITALIZATION.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE NOT TO GET OUT OF BED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. NOT TO WALK...

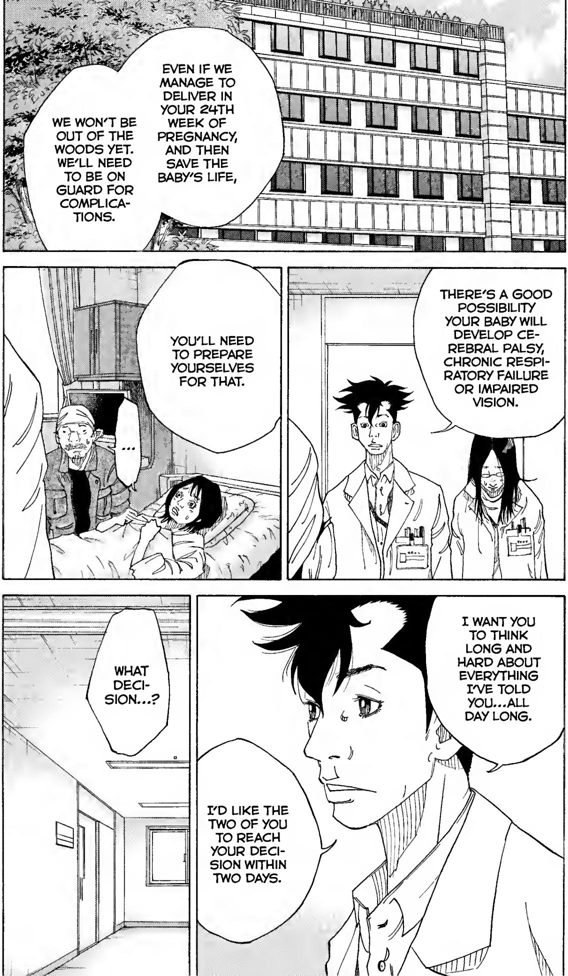

...TO EAT...
...OR EVEN TO USE THE BATHROOM.
...
YOU'LL DO ALL OF THAT IN YOUR BED.
OUR FIRST GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE THE FETUS MAKES IT 24 WEEKS AND REACHES A FETAL WEIGHT OF 500 GRAMS.
IF WE CAN MANAGE THAT, IT'LL HAVE ABOUT A 50% CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.

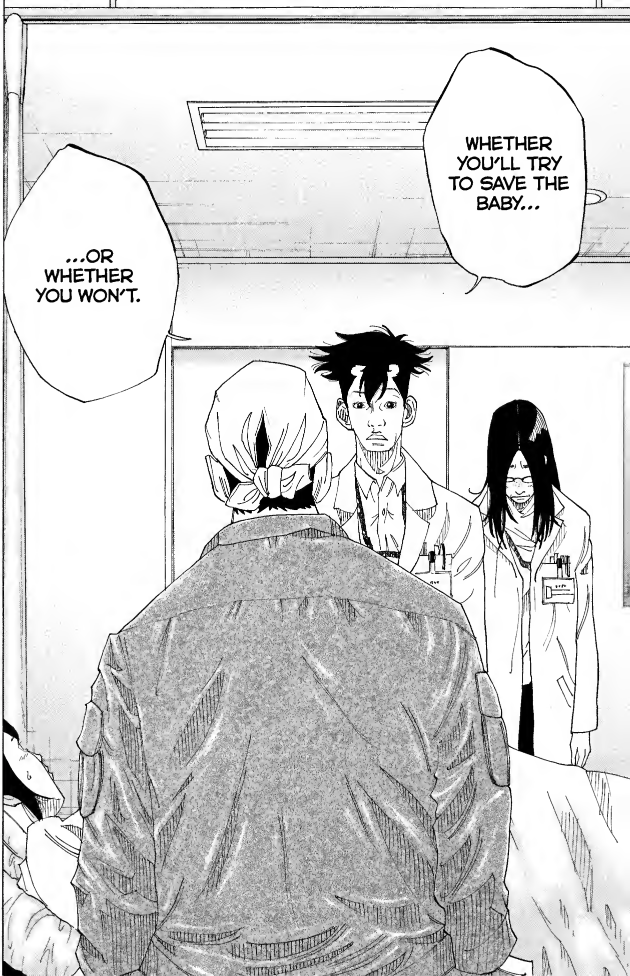

THERE ARE CERTAIN RISKS THAT COME ALONG WITH A PROLONGED PREGNANCY.
I'LL WARN YOU RIGHT NOW, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.
AND IF WE CAN'T SAVE THE BABY, SHE'LL HAVE A MISCARRIAGE?
IF IT HAPPENS BY THE 22ND WEEK OF PREGNANCY, YES.
IF IT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS...
...THAT'S CALLED A STILLBIRTH.

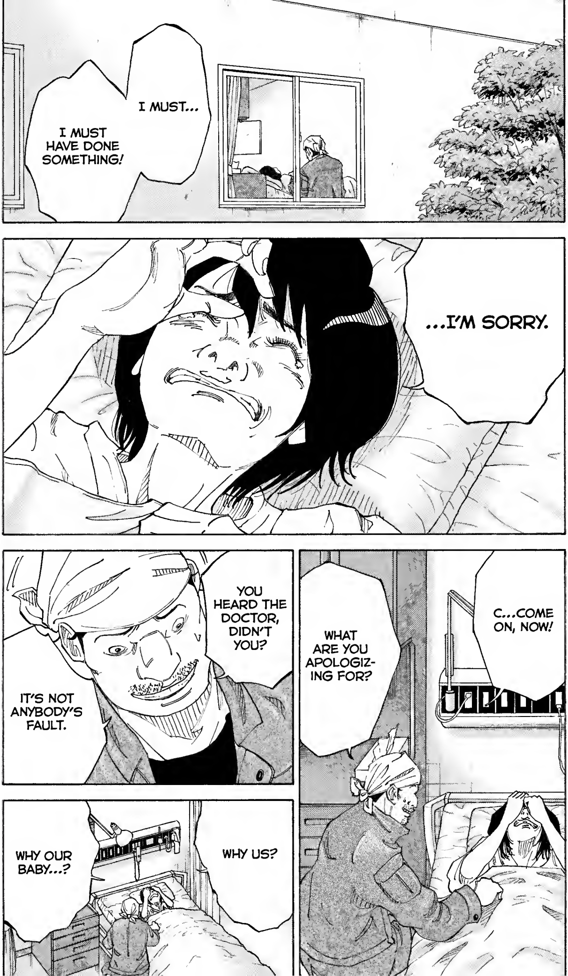

EVEN IF WE MANAGE TO DELIVER IN YOUR 24TH WEEK OF PREGNANCY...
...AND SAVE THE BABY'S LIFE, WE WON'T BE OUT OF THE WOODS YET.
WE'LL NEED TO BE ON GUARD FOR COMPLICATIONS.
THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY YOUR BABY WILL DEVELOP CEREBRAL PALSY, CHRONIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE OR IMPAIRED VISION.
...
YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR THAT.
I WANT YOU TO THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT EVERYTHING I'VE TOLD YOU...
...ALL DAY LONG.
I'D LIKE THE TWO OF YOU TO REACH YOUR DECISION WITHIN TWO DAYS.
WHAT DECISION...?

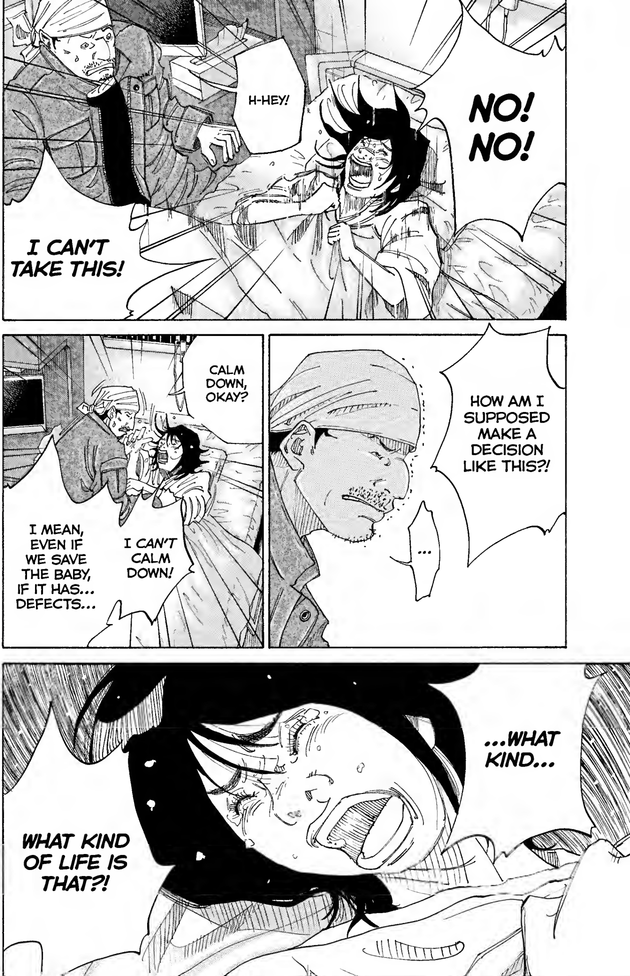

WHETHER YOU'LL TRY TO SAVE THE BABY...
...OR WHETHER YOU WON'T.

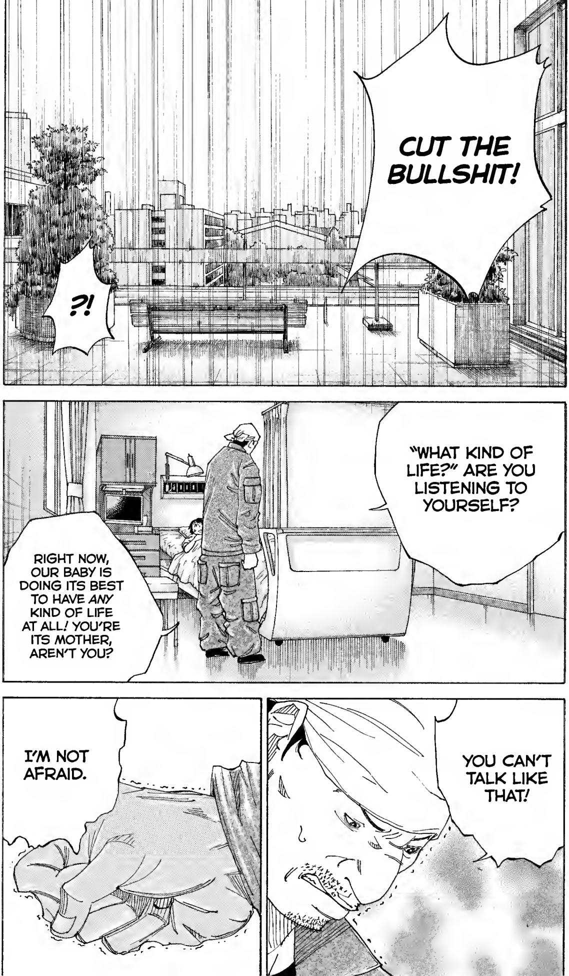
THREATENED MISCARRIAGE (1) / END

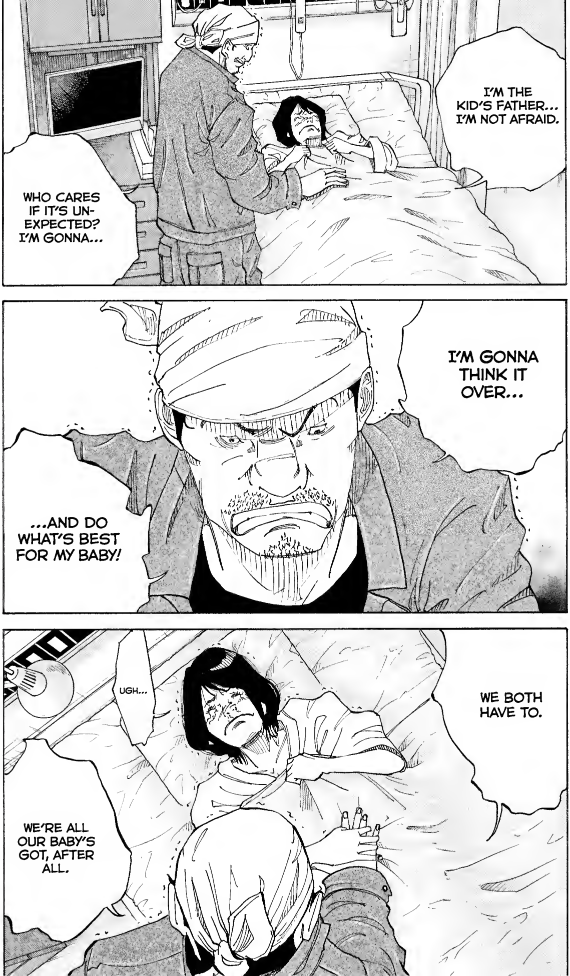

EVEN IF WE MANAGE TO DELIVER IN YOUR 24TH WEEK OF PREGNANCY, AND THEN SAVE THE BABY'S LIFE,
WE WON'T BE OUT OF THE WOODS YET. WE'LL NEED TO BE ON GUARD FOR COMPLICATIONS.
THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY YOUR BABY WILL DEVELOP CEREBRAL PALSY, CHRONIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE OR IMPAIRED VISION.
YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR THAT.
...
I WANT YOU TO THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT EVERYTHING I'VE TOLD YOU...ALL DAY LONG.
I'D LIKE THE TWO OF YOU TO REACH YOUR DECISION WITHIN TWO DAYS.
WHAT DECISION...?

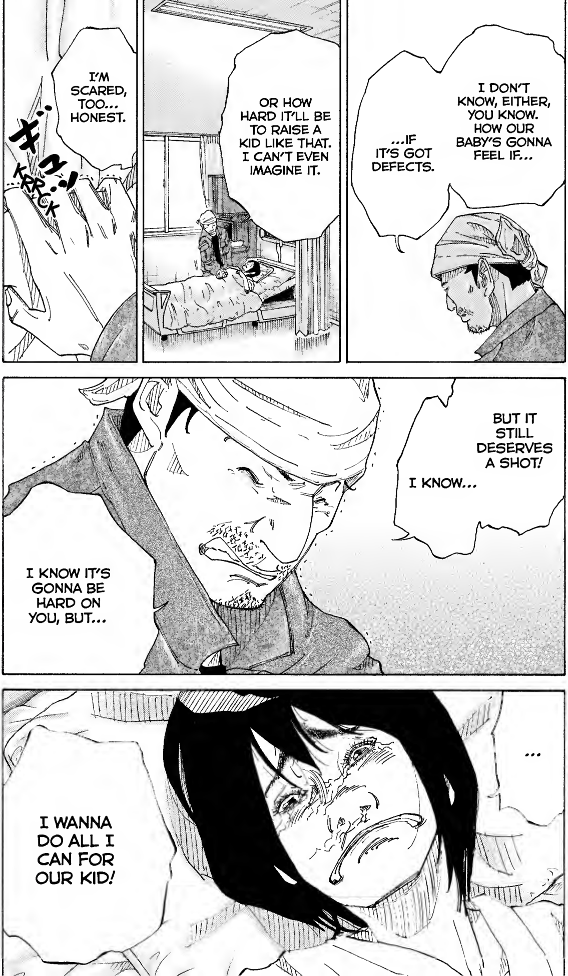

WHETHER YOU'LL TRY TO SAVE THE BABY...
...OR WHETHER YOU WON'T.

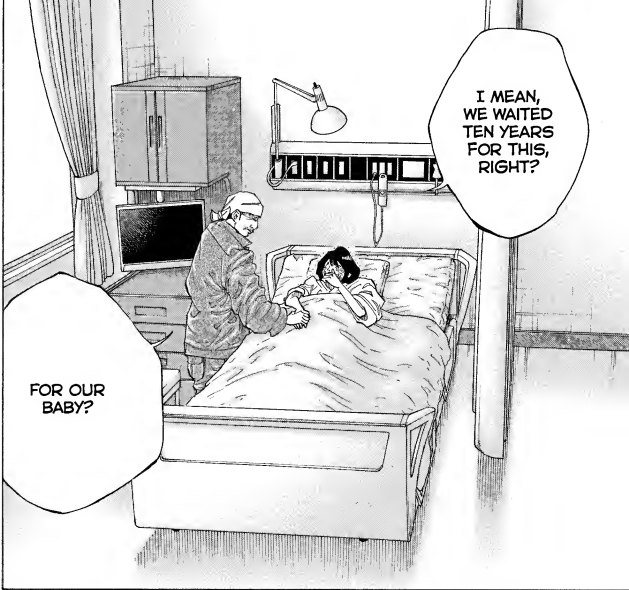

I MUST...
I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING!
...I'M SORRY.
C...COME ON, NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?
YOU HEARD THE DOCTOR, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S NOT ANYBODY'S FAULT.
WHY US?
WHY OUR BABY...?

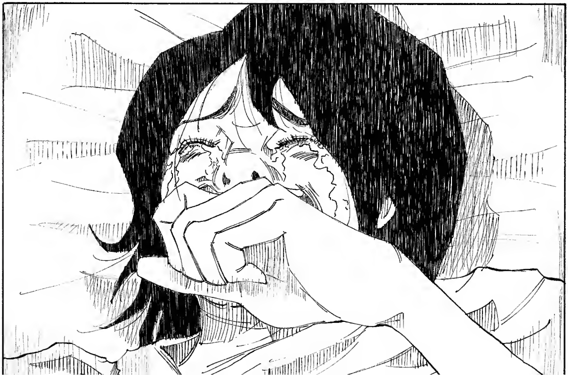

NO! NO!
H-HEY!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED MAKE A DECISION LIKE THIS?!
...
CALM DOWN, OKAY?
I *CAN'T* CALM DOWN!
I MEAN, EVEN IF WE SAVE THE BABY, IF IT HAS... DEFECTS...
...WHAT KIND...
WHAT KIND OF LIFE IS THAT?!

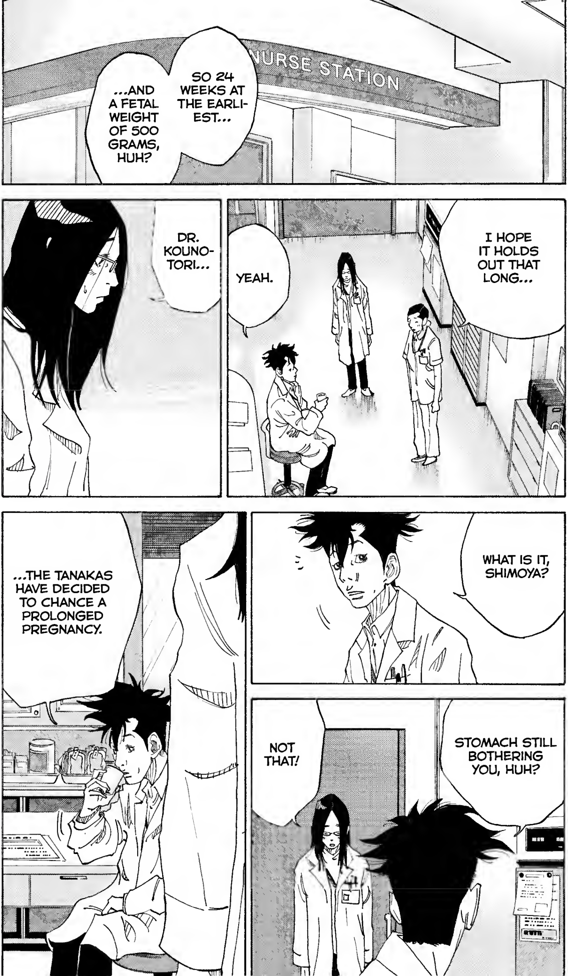

CUT THE BULLSHIT!
?!
"WHAT KIND OF LIFE?" ARE YOU LISTENING TO YOURSELF?
RIGHT NOW, OUR BABY IS DOING ITS BEST TO HAVE *ANY* KIND OF LIFE AT ALL! YOU'RE ITS MOTHER, AREN'T YOU?
YOU CAN'T TALK LIKE THAT!
I'M NOT AFRAID.

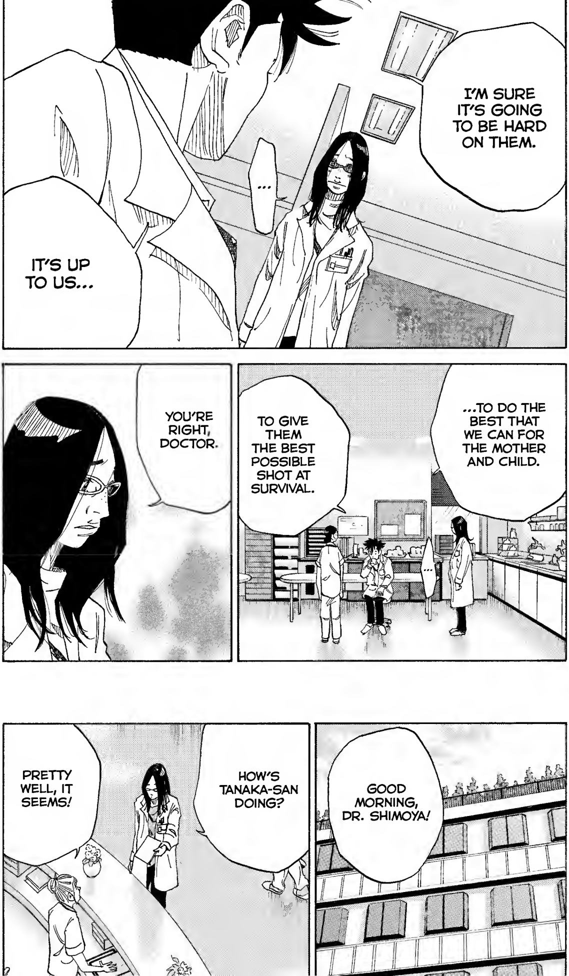

I'M THE KID'S FATHER... I'M NOT AFRAID.
WHO CARES IF IT'S UNEXPECTED? I'M GONNA...
I'M GONNA THINK IT OVER...
...AND DO WHAT'S BEST FOR MY BABY!
WE BOTH HAVE TO.
UGH...
WE'RE ALL OUR BABY'S GOT, AFTER ALL.

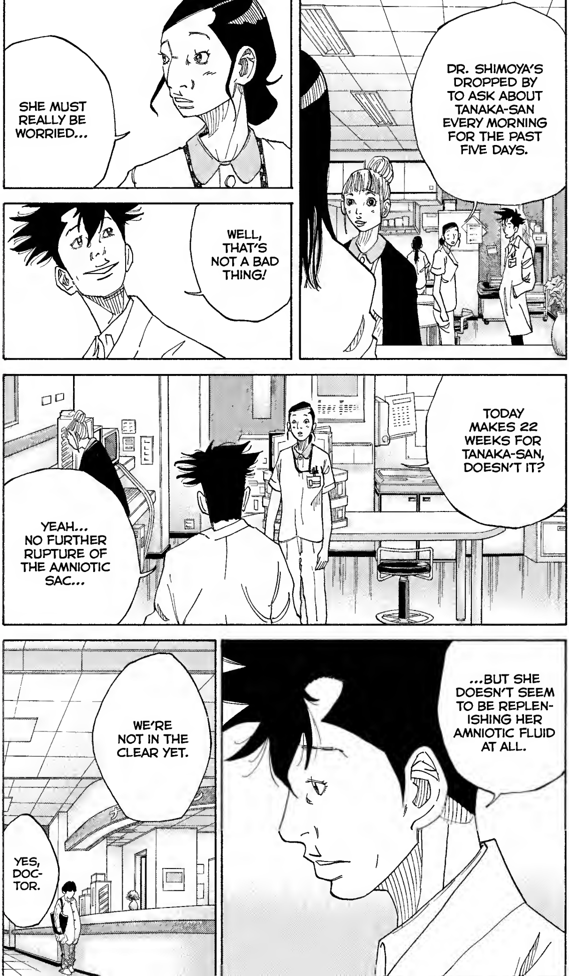

I DON'T KNOW, EITHER, YOU KNOW. HOW OUR BABY'S GONNA FEEL IF...
...IF IT'S GOT DEFECTS.
OR HOW HARD IT'LL BE TO RAISE A KID LIKE THAT. I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT.
I'M SCARED, TOO... HONEST.
ギュッ
KRRCK
BUT IT STILL DESERVES A SHOT!
I KNOW...
I KNOW IT'S GONNA BE HARD ON YOU, BUT...
...
I WANNA DO ALL I CAN FOR OUR KID!

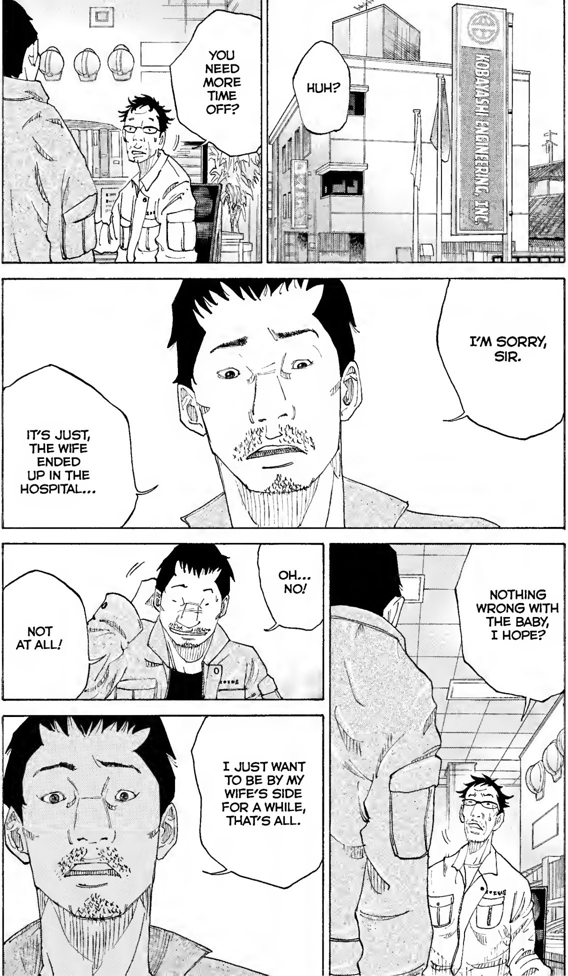

I MEAN, WE WAITED TEN YEARS FOR THIS, RIGHT?
FOR OUR BABY?

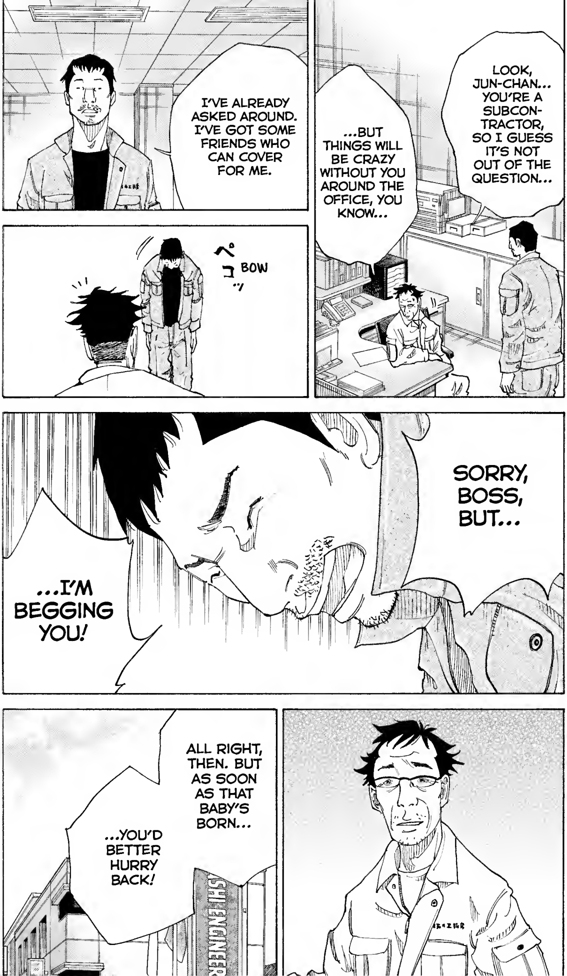


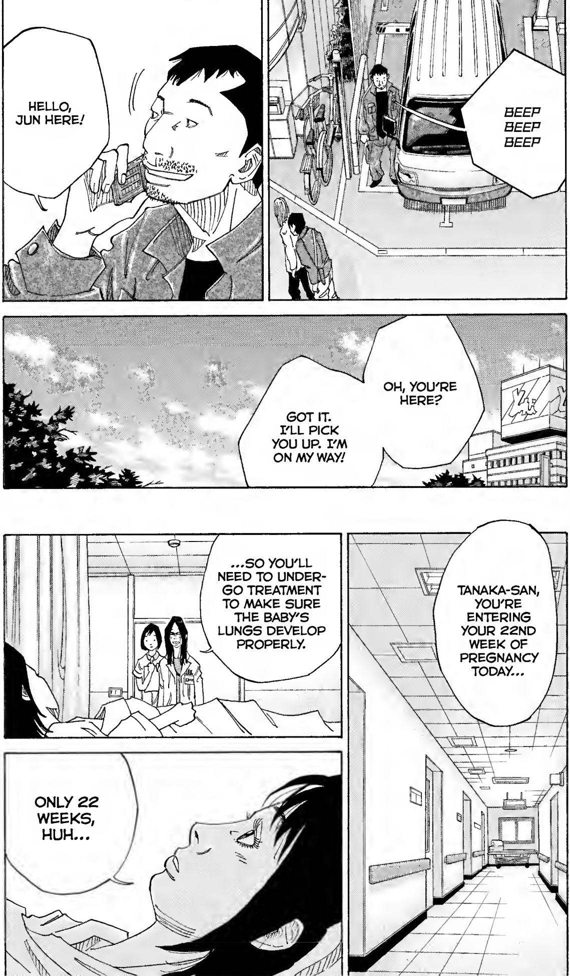

NURSE STATION
SO 24 WEEKS AT THE EARLIEST...
...AND A FETAL WEIGHT OF 500 GRAMS, HUH?
I HOPE IT HOLDS OUT THAT LONG...
YEAH.
DR. KOUNOTORI...
WHAT IS IT, SHIMOYA?
STOMACH STILL BOTHERING YOU, HUH?
NOT THAT!
...THE TANAKAS HAVE DECIDED TO CHANCE A PROLONGED PREGNANCY.

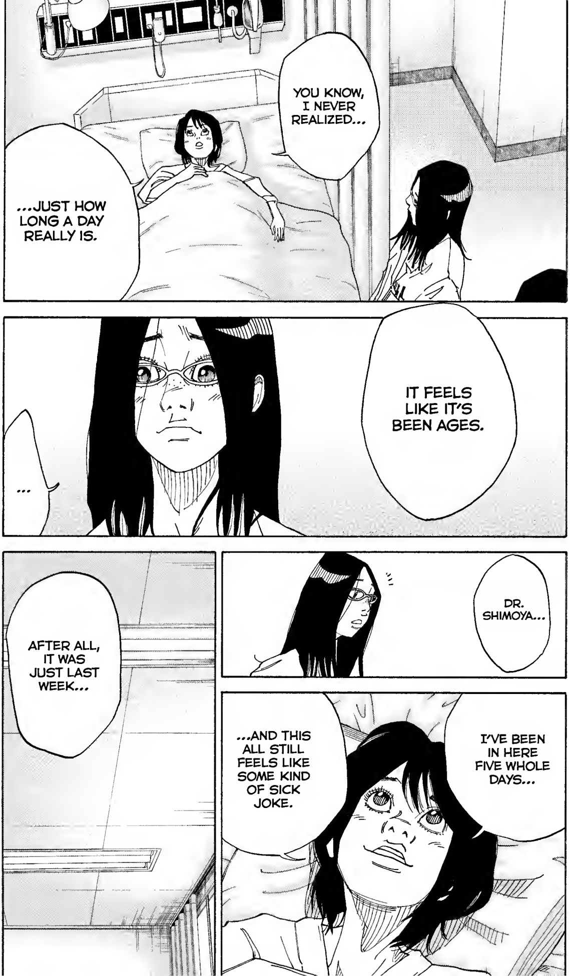

I'M SURE IT'S GOING TO BE HARD ON THEM.
...
IT'S UP TO US...
...TO DO THE BEST THAT WE CAN FOR THE MOTHER AND CHILD.
...
TO GIVE THEM THE BEST POSSIBLE SHOT AT SURVIVAL.
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR.
GOOD MORNING, DR. SHIMOYA!
HOW'S TANAKA-SAN DOING?
PRETTY WELL, IT SEEMS!

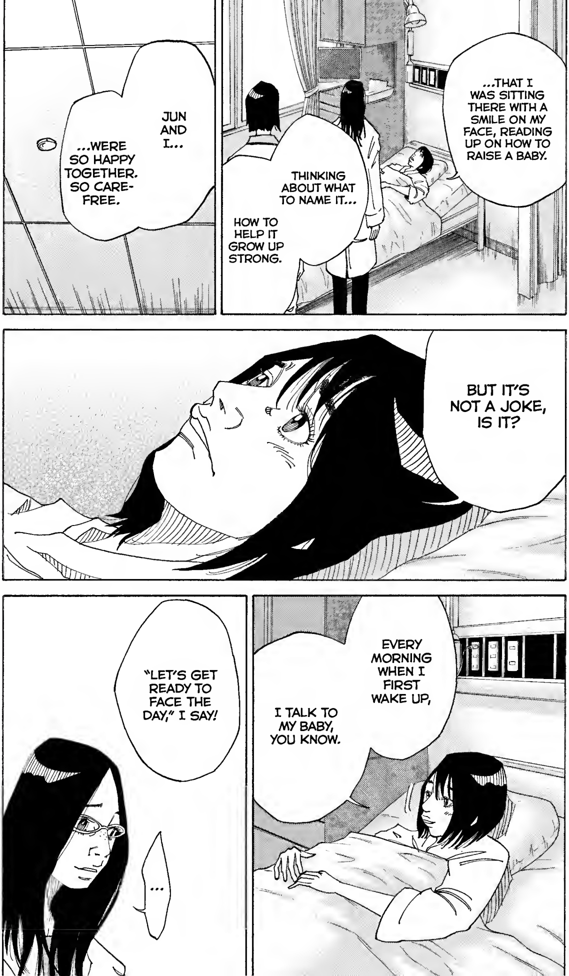

DR. SHIMOYA'S DROPPED BY TO ASK ABOUT TANAKA-SAN EVERY MORNING FOR THE PAST FIVE DAYS.
SHE MUST REALLY BE WORRIED...
WELL, THAT'S NOT A BAD THING!
TODAY MAKES 22 WEEKS FOR TANAKA-SAN, DOESN'T IT?
YEAH... NO FURTHER RUPTURE OF THE AMNIOTIC SAC...
...BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE REPLENISHING HER AMNIOTIC FLUID AT ALL.
WE'RE NOT IN THE CLEAR YET.
YES, DOCTOR.

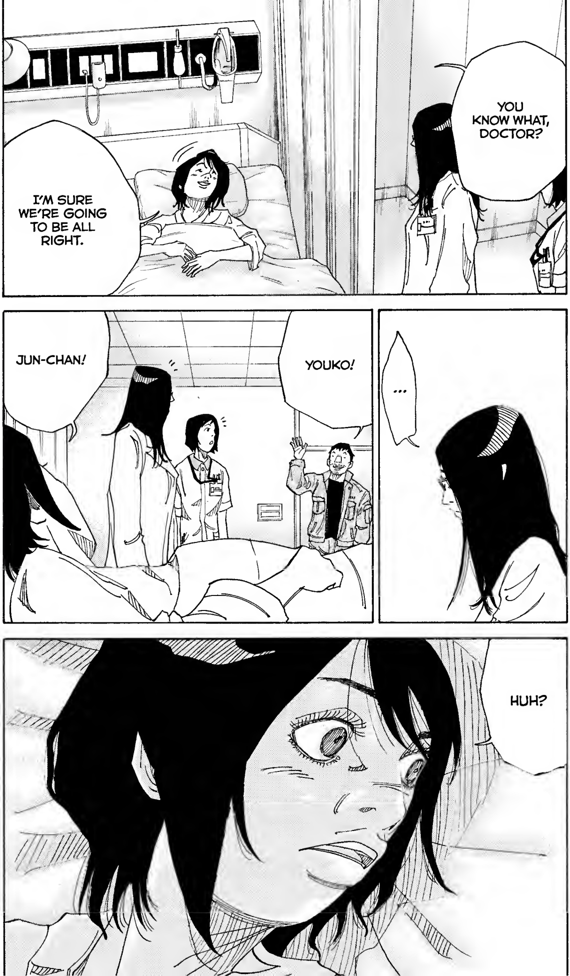

KOBAYASHI ENGINEERING, INC.
HUH?
YOU NEED MORE TIME OFF?
I'M SORRY, SIR.
IT'S JUST, THE WIFE ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL...
NOTHING WRONG WITH THE BABY, I HOPE?
OH... NO!
NOT AT ALL!
I JUST WANT TO BE BY MY WIFE'S SIDE FOR A WHILE, THAT'S ALL.

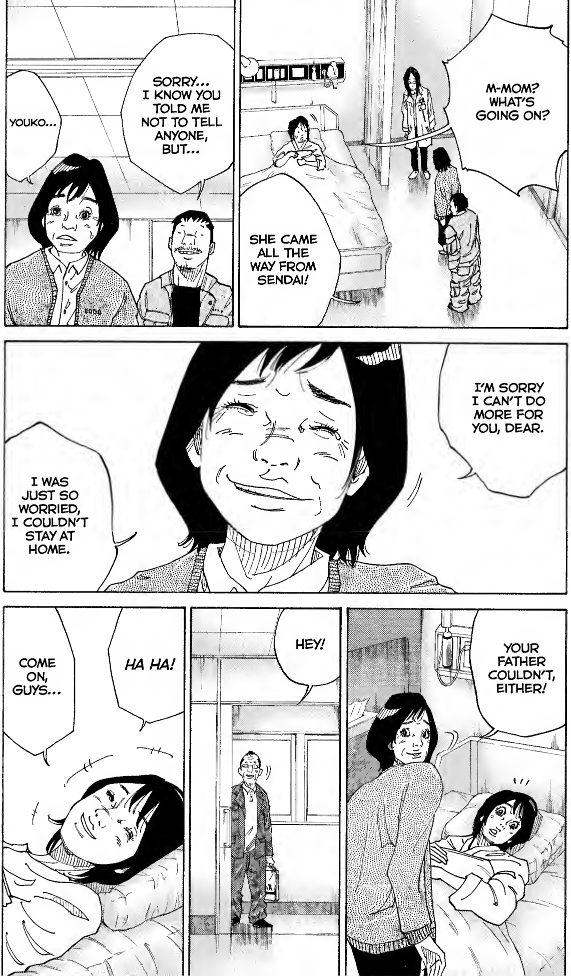

LOOK, JUN-CHAN... YOU'RE A SUBCONTRACTOR, SO I GUESS IT'S NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION...
...BUT THINGS WILL BE CRAZY WITHOUT YOU AROUND THE OFFICE, YOU KNOW...
I'VE ALREADY ASKED AROUND. I'VE GOT SOME FRIENDS WHO CAN COVER FOR ME.
ペコッ
BOW
SORRY, BOSS, BUT...
...I'M BEGGING YOU!
ALL RIGHT, THEN. BUT AS SOON AS THAT BABY'S BORN...
...YOU'D BETTER HURRY BACK!
SHI ENGINEER

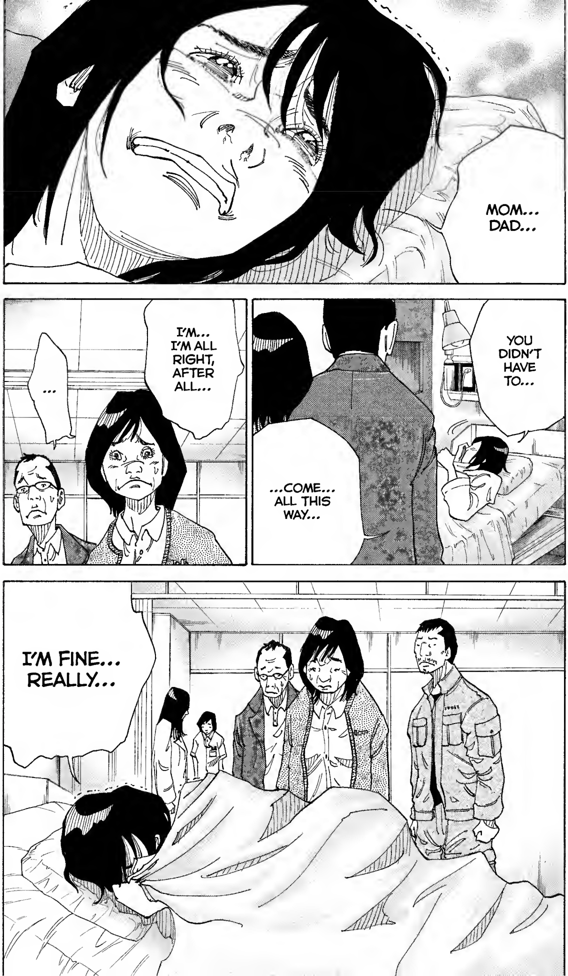

BEEP BEEP BEEP
HELLO, JUN HERE!
OH, YOU'RE HERE?
GOT IT. I'LL PICK YOU UP. I'M ON MY WAY!
TANAKA-SAN, YOU'RE ENTERING YOUR 22ND WEEK OF PREGNANCY TODAY...
...SO YOU'LL NEED TO UNDERGO TREATMENT TO MAKE SURE THE BABY'S LUNGS DEVELOP PROPERLY.
ONLY 22 WEEKS, HUH...

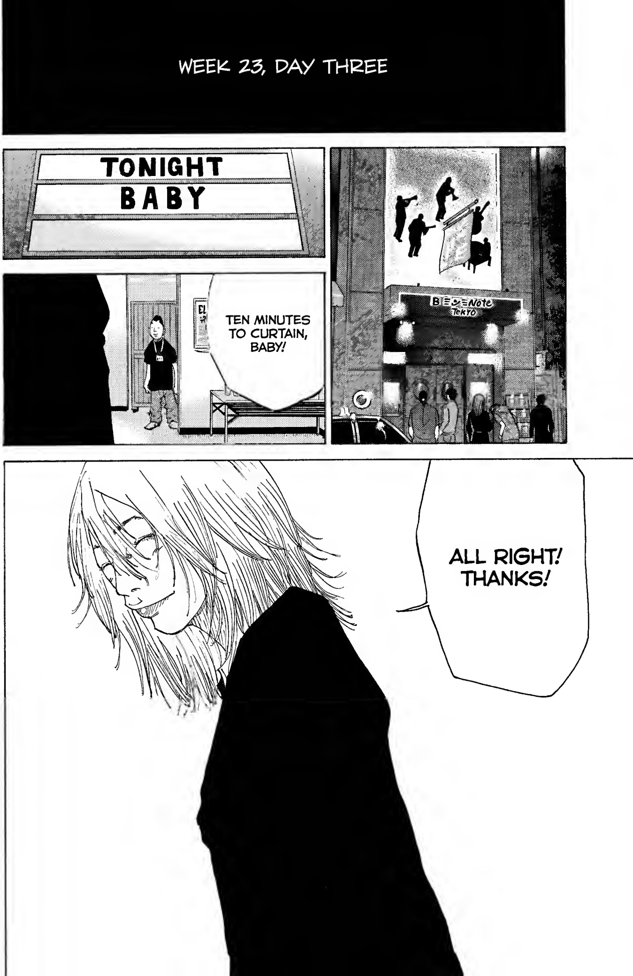

YOU KNOW, I NEVER REALIZED...
...JUST HOW LONG A DAY REALLY IS.
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN AGES.
...
DR. SHIMOYA...
I'VE BEEN IN HERE FIVE WHOLE DAYS...
...AND THIS ALL STILL FEELS LIKE SOME KIND OF SICK JOKE.
AFTER ALL, IT WAS JUST LAST WEEK...

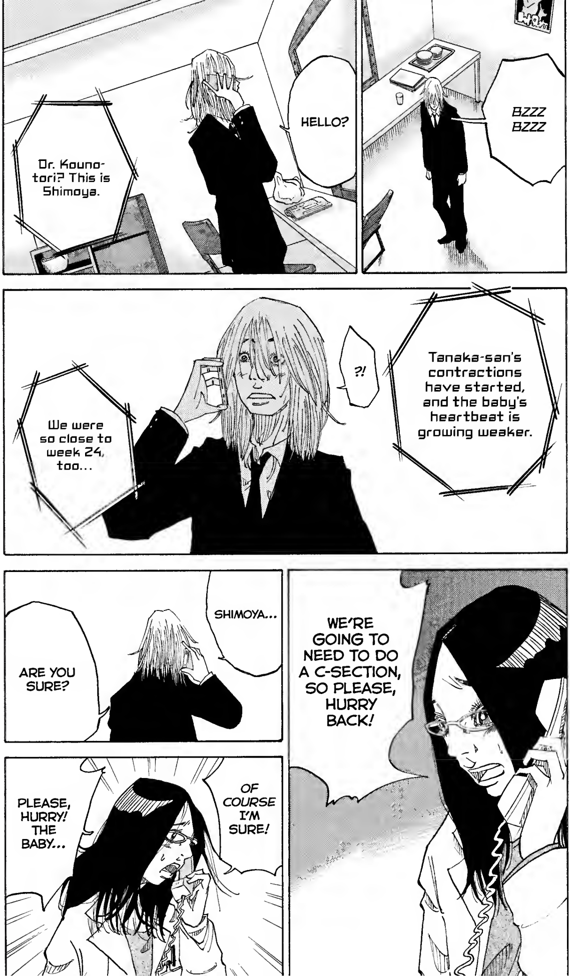

...THAT I WAS SITTING THERE WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE, READING UP ON HOW TO RAISE A BABY.
THINKING ABOUT WHAT TO NAME IT...
HOW TO HELP IT GROW UP STRONG.
JUN AND I...
...WERE SO HAPPY TOGETHER. SO CAREFREE.
BUT IT'S NOT A JOKE, IS IT?
EVERY MORNING WHEN I FIRST WAKE UP,
I TALK TO MY BABY, YOU KNOW.
"LET'S GET READY TO FACE THE DAY," I SAY!
...

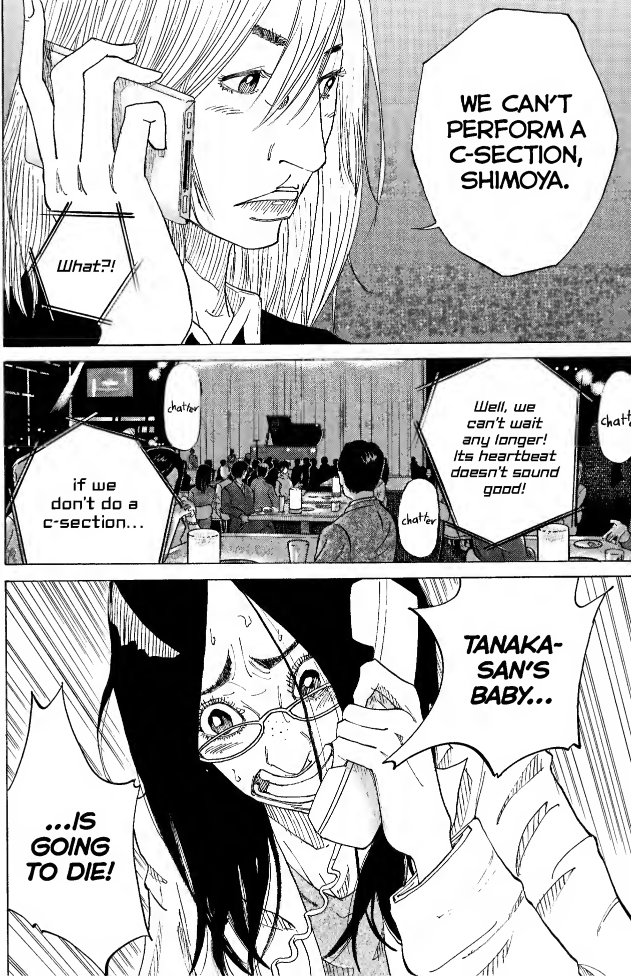

YOU KNOW WHAT, DOCTOR?
I'M SURE WE'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
...
YOUKO!
JUN-CHAN!
HUH?


M-MOM? WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHE CAME ALL THE WAY FROM SENDAI!
SORRY... I KNOW YOU TOLD ME NOT TO TELL ANYONE, BUT...
YOUKO...
I'M SORRY I CAN'T DO MORE FOR YOU, DEAR.
I WAS JUST SO WORRIED, I COULDN'T STAY AT HOME.
YOUR FATHER COULDN'T, EITHER!
HEY!
HA HA!
COME ON, GUYS...


MOM... DAD...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...
...COME... ALL THIS WAY...
I'M... I'M ALL RIGHT, AFTER ALL...
...
I'M FINE... REALLY...

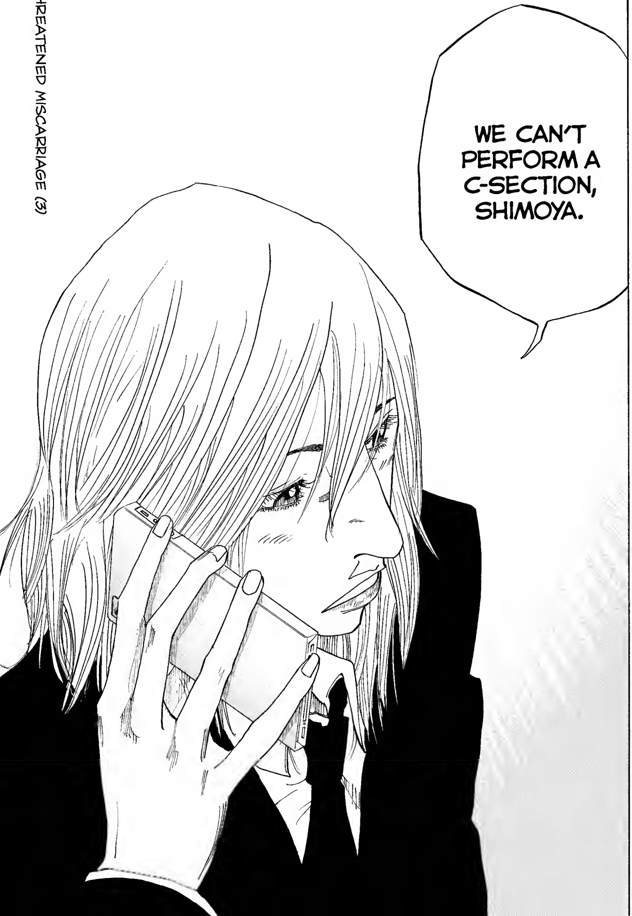

WEEK 23, DAY THREE
B Note
TOKYO
TONIGHT
BABY
TEN MINUTES TO CURTAIN, BABY!
ALL RIGHT! THANKS!

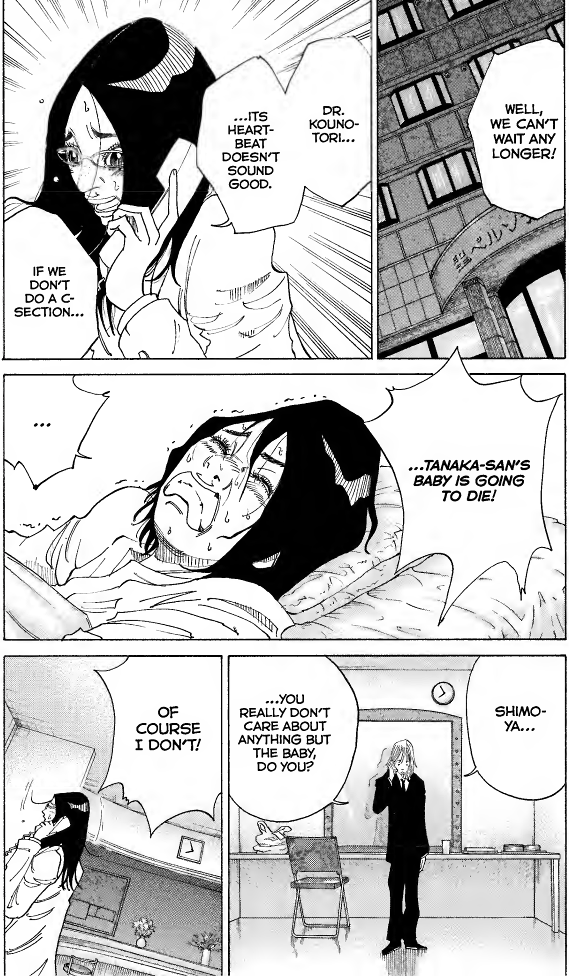

BZZZ BZZZ
HELLO?
Dr. Kounotori? This is Shimoya.
Tanaka-san's contractions have started, and the baby's heartbeat is growing weaker.
?!
We were so close to week 24, too...
WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO DO A C-SECTION, SO PLEASE, HURRY BACK!
SHIMOYA...
ARE YOU SURE?
OF COURSE I'M SURE!
PLEASE, HURRY! THE BABY...

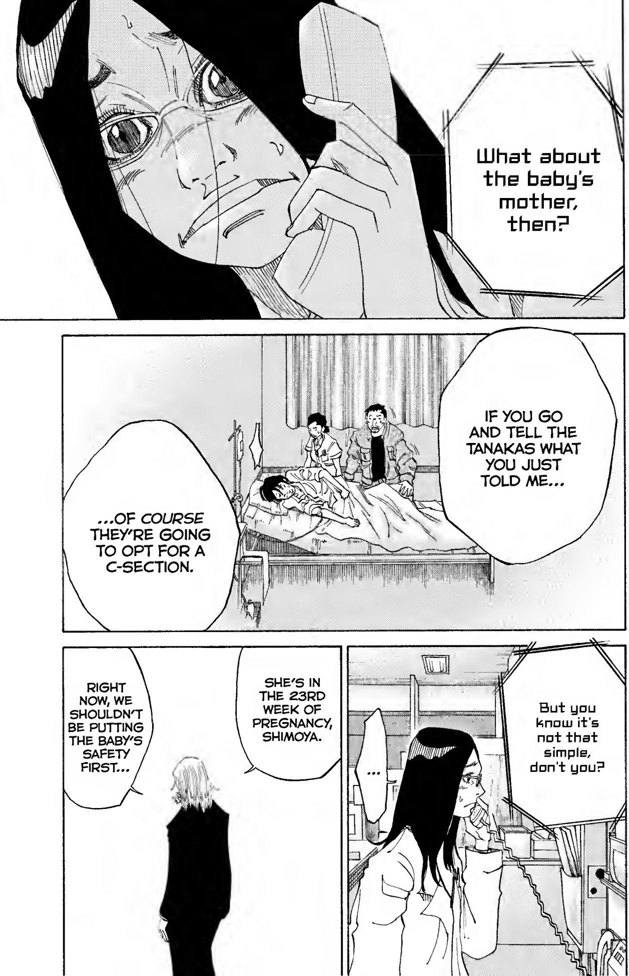

WE CAN'T PERFORM A C-SECTION, SHIMOYA.
What?!
chatt
Well, we can't wait any longer! Its heartbeat doesn't sound good!
chatter
chatter
if we don't do a c-section...
TANAKA-SAN'S BABY...
...IS GOING TO DIE!

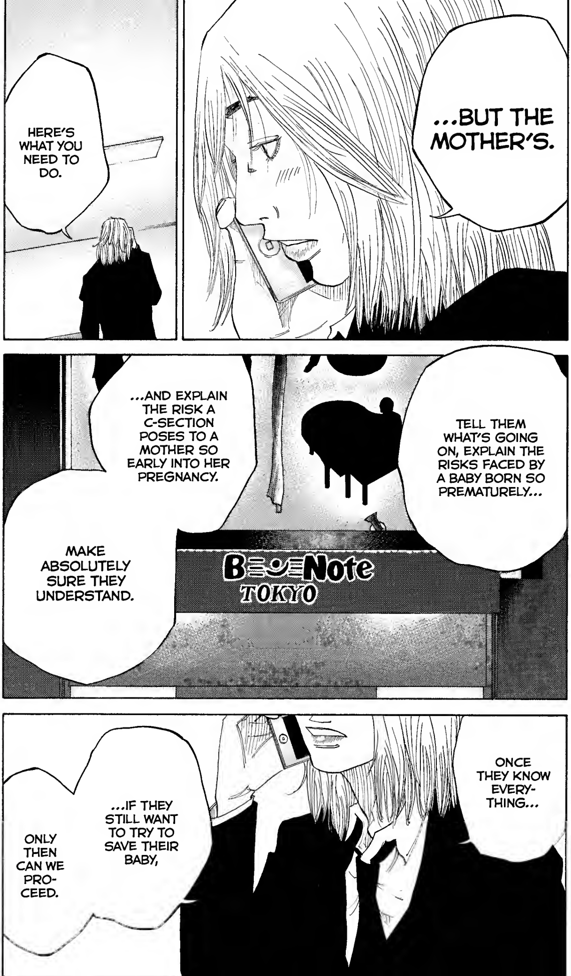
THREATENED MISCARRIAGE (2) / END

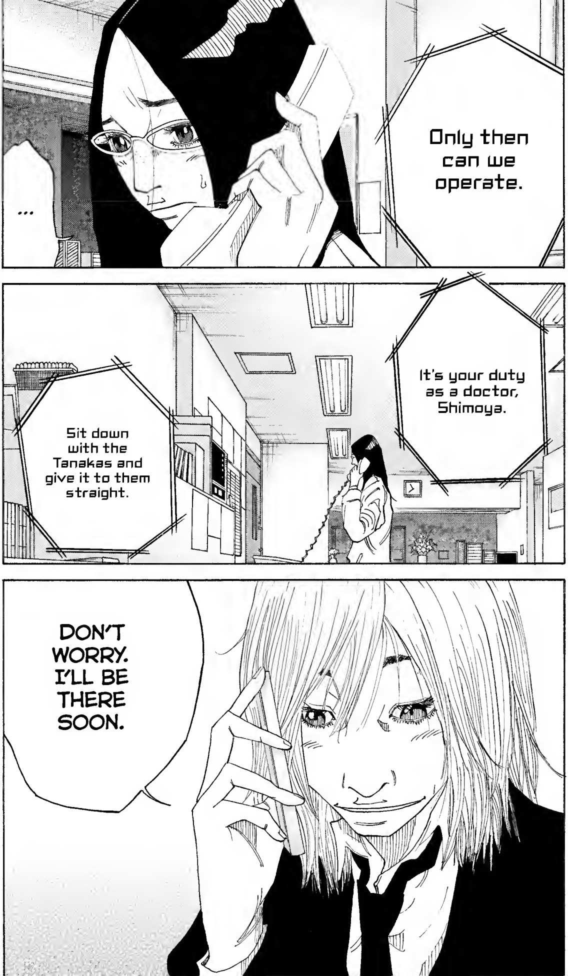
THREATENED MISCARRIAGE (3)

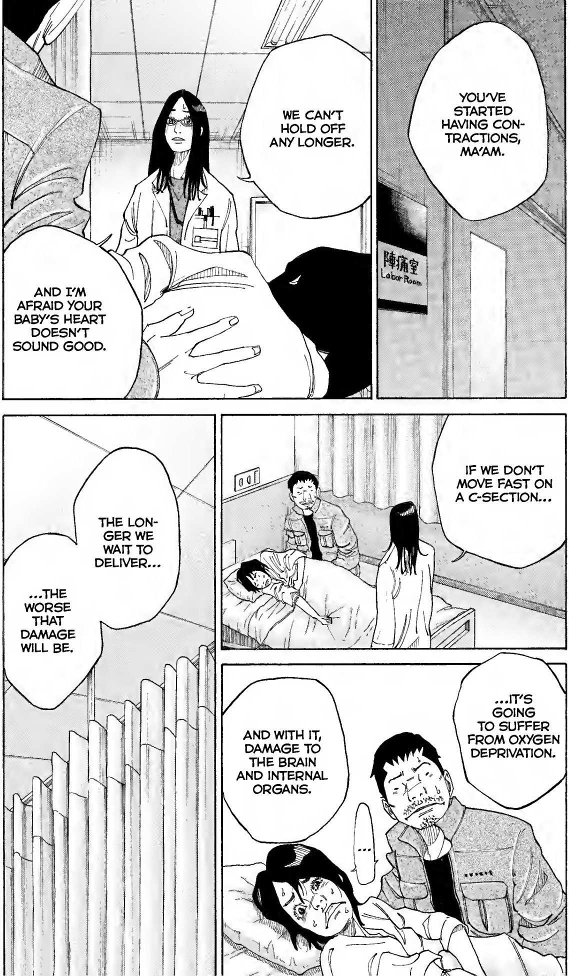

WE CAN'T PERFORM A C-SECTION, SHIMOYA.

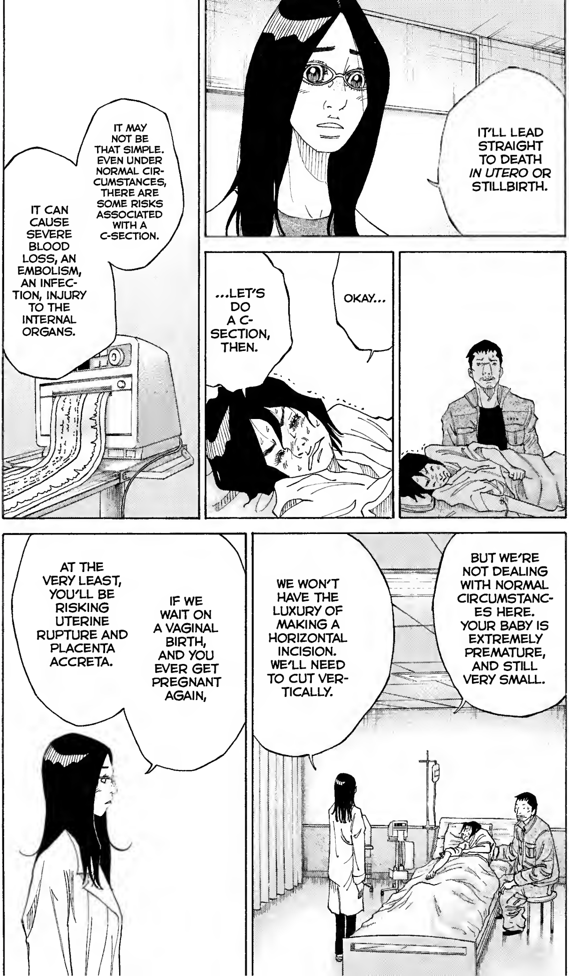

WELL, WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!
DR. KOUNOTORI...
...ITS HEARTBEAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.
IF WE DON'T DO A C-SECTION...
...TANAKA-SAN'S BABY IS GOING TO DIE!
...
SHIMOYA...
...YOU REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING BUT THE BABY, DO YOU?
OF COURSE I DON'T!

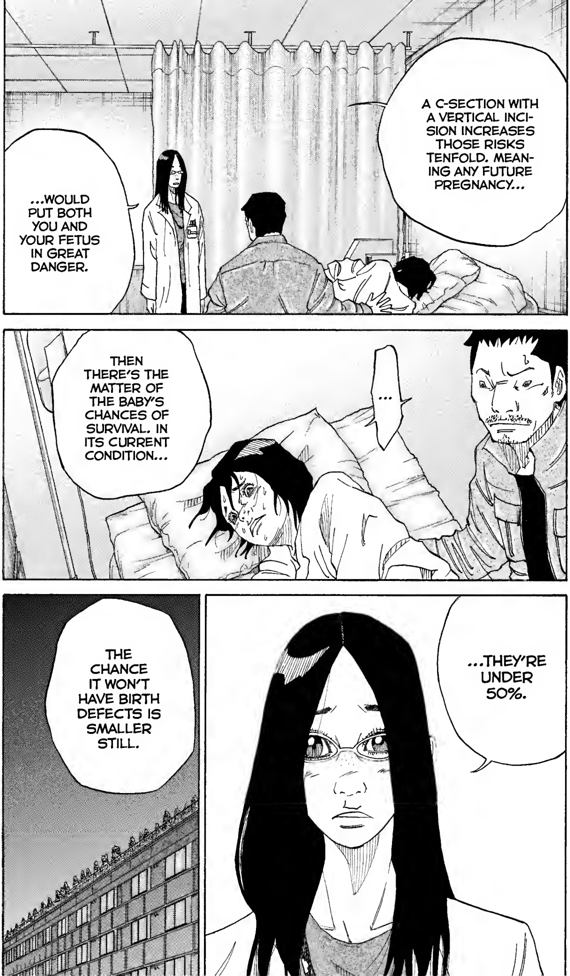

What about the baby's mother, then?
IF YOU GO AND TELL THE TANAKAS WHAT YOU JUST TOLD ME...
...OF *COURSE* THEY'RE GOING TO OPT FOR A C-SECTION.
But you know it's not that simple, don't you?
...
SHE'S IN THE 23RD WEEK OF PREGNANCY, SHIMOYA.
RIGHT NOW, WE SHOULDN'T BE PUTTING THE BABY'S SAFETY FIRST...

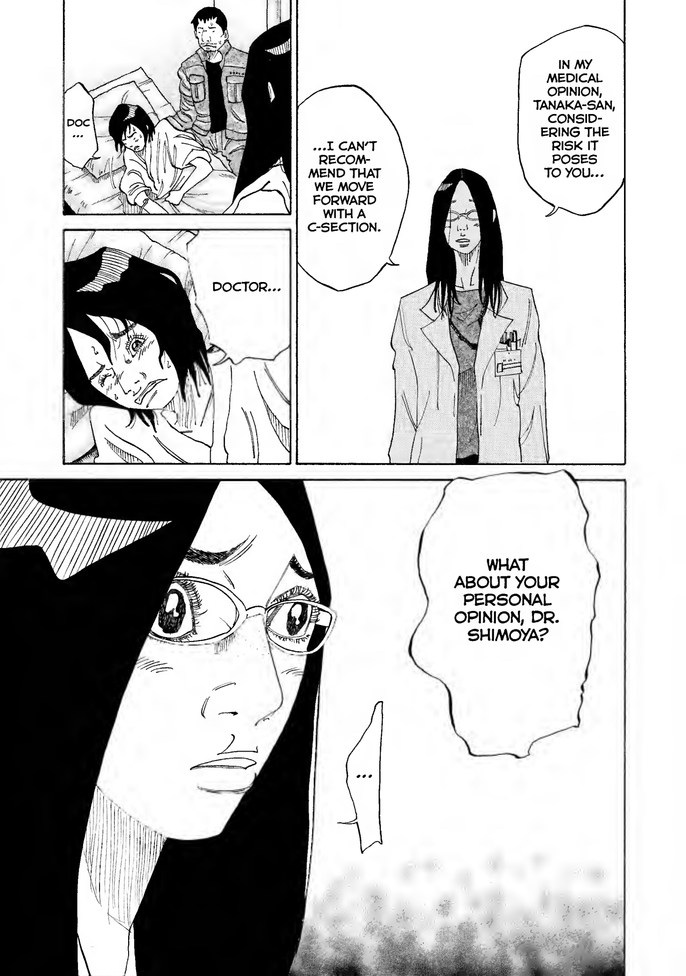

...BUT THE MOTHER'S.
HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO.
TELL THEM WHAT'S GOING ON, EXPLAIN THE RISKS FACED BY A BABY BORN SO PREMATURELY...
...AND EXPLAIN THE RISK A C-SECTION POSES TO A MOTHER SO EARLY INTO HER PREGNANCY.
MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THEY UNDERSTAND.
B Note
TOKYO
ONCE THEY KNOW EVERYTHING...
...IF THEY STILL WANT TO TRY TO SAVE THEIR BABY,
ONLY THEN CAN WE PROCEED.

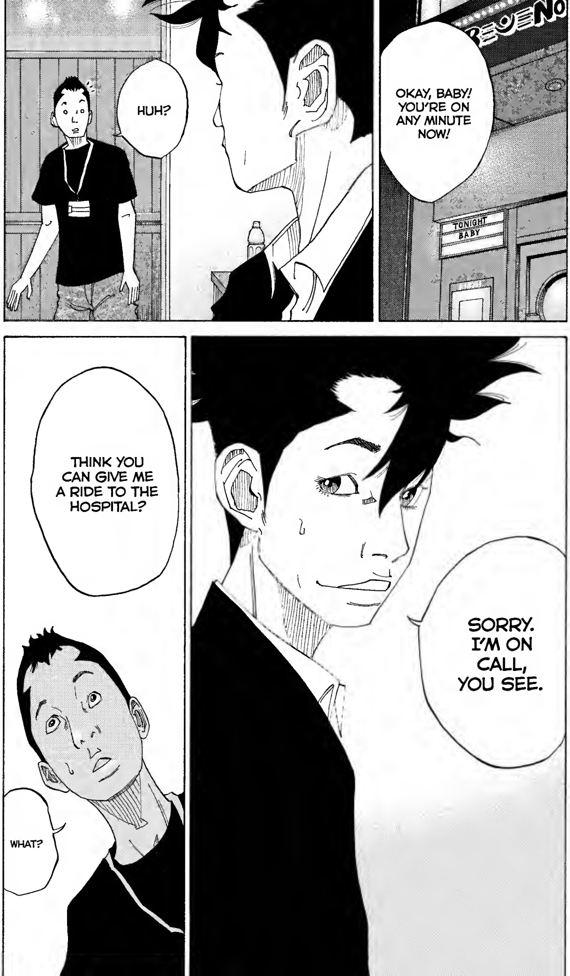

Only then can we operate.
...
It's your duty as a doctor, Shimoya.
Sit down with the Tanakas and give it to them straight.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE THERE SOON.

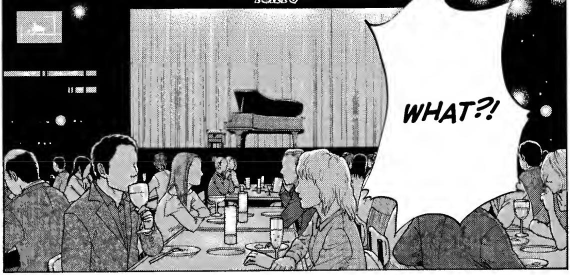

YOU'VE STARTED HAVING CONTRACTIONS, MA'AM.
陣痛室
Labor Room
WE CAN'T HOLD OFF ANY LONGER.
AND I'M AFRAID YOUR BABY'S HEART DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.
IF WE DON'T MOVE FAST ON A C-SECTION...
...IT'S GOING TO SUFFER FROM OXYGEN DEPRIVATION.
AND WITH IT, DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN AND INTERNAL ORGANS.
...
THE LONGER WE WAIT TO DELIVER...
...THE WORSE THAT DAMAGE WILL BE.

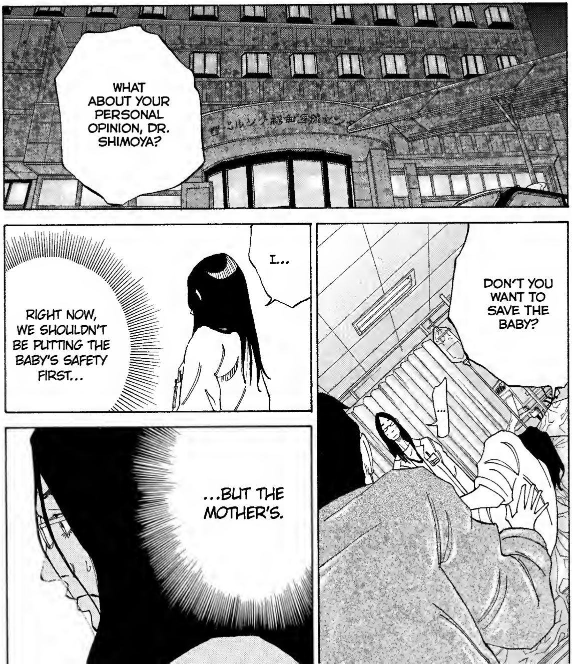

IT'LL LEAD STRAIGHT TO DEATH *IN UTERO* OR STILLBIRTH.
OKAY...
...LET'S DO A C-SECTION, THEN.
IT MAY NOT BE THAT SIMPLE. EVEN UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE ARE SOME RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH A C-SECTION.
IT CAN CAUSE SEVERE BLOOD LOSS, AN EMBOLISM, AN INFECTION, INJURY TO THE INTERNAL ORGANS.
BUT WE'RE NOT DEALING WITH NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES HERE. YOUR BABY IS EXTREMELY PREMATURE, AND STILL VERY SMALL.
WE WON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF MAKING A HORIZONTAL INCISION. WE'LL NEED TO CUT VERTICALLY.
IF WE WAIT ON A VAGINAL BIRTH, AND YOU EVER GET PREGNANT AGAIN,
AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU'LL BE RISKING UTERINE RUPTURE AND PLACENTA ACCRETA.

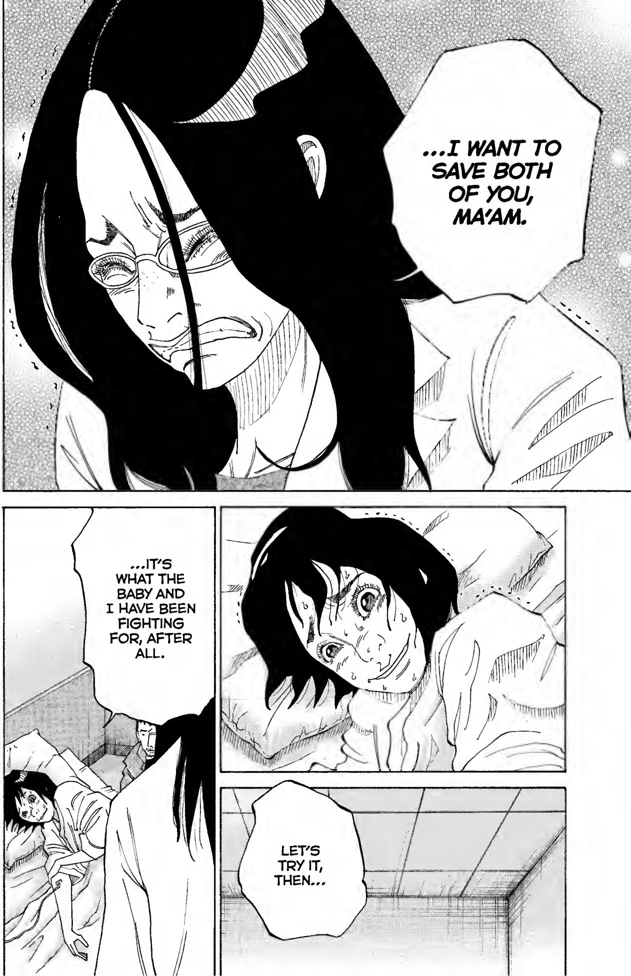

A C-SECTION WITH A VERTICAL INCISION INCREASES THOSE RISKS TENFOLD. MEANING ANY FUTURE PREGNANCY...
...WOULD PUT BOTH YOU AND YOUR FETUS IN GREAT DANGER.
...
THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF THE BABY'S CHANCES OF SURVIVAL. IN ITS CURRENT CONDITION...
...THEY'RE UNDER 50%.
THE CHANCE IT WON'T HAVE BIRTH DEFECTS IS SMALLER STILL.

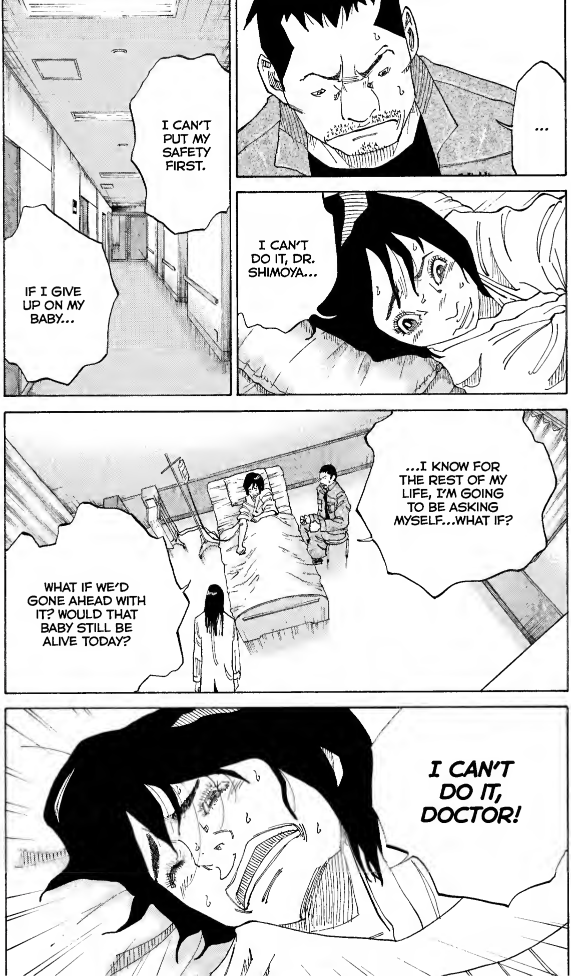

IN MY MEDICAL OPINION, TANAKA-SAN, CONSIDERING THE RISK IT POSES TO YOU...
...I CAN'T RECOMMEND THAT WE MOVE FORWARD WITH A C-SECTION.
DOC ...
DOCTOR...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL OPINION, DR. SHIMOYA?
...

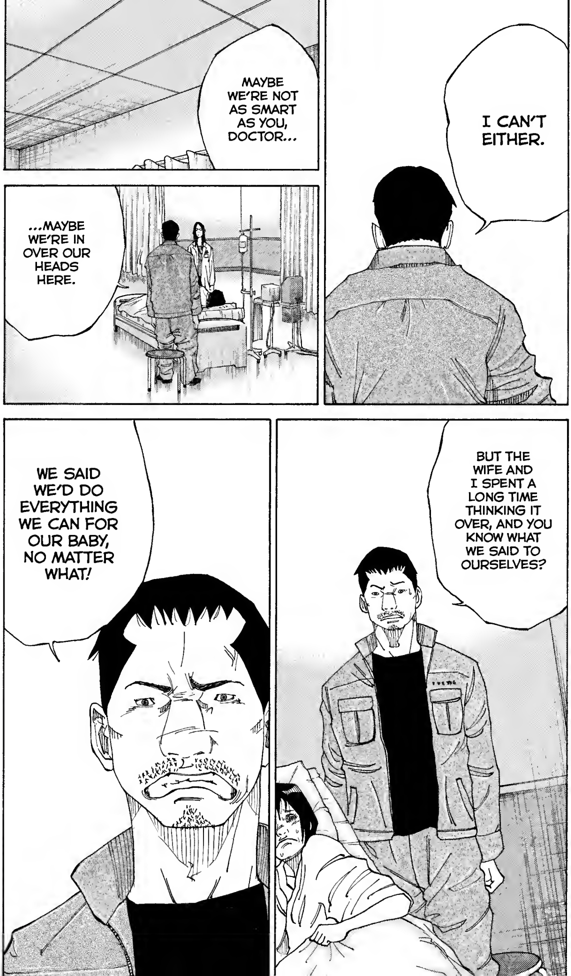

OKAY, BABY! YOU'RE ON ANY MINUTE NOW!
TONIGHT
BABY
HUH?
SORRY. I'M ON CALL, YOU SEE.
THINK YOU CAN GIVE ME A RIDE TO THE HOSPITAL?
WHAT?

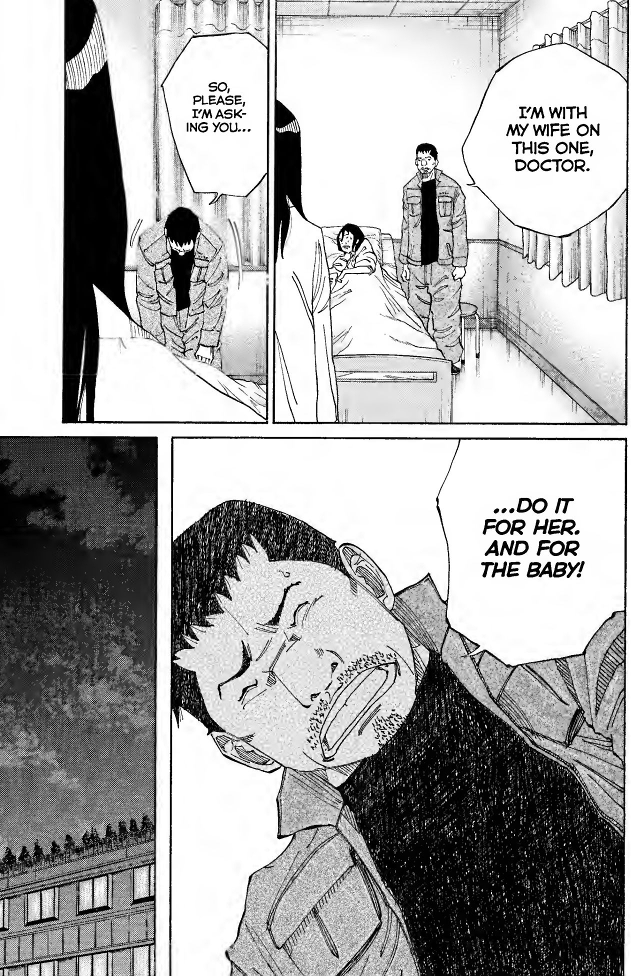

WHAT?!

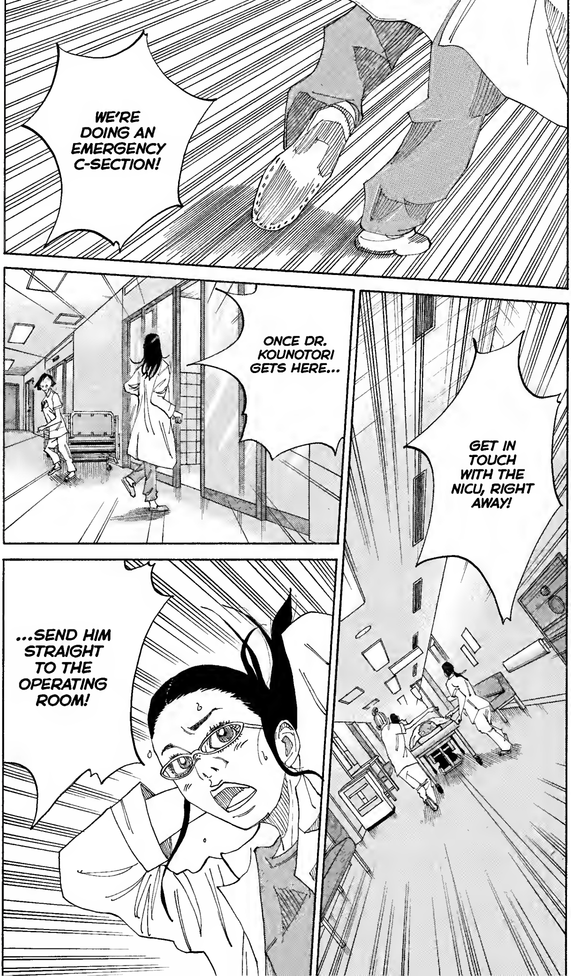

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL OPINION, DR. SHIMOYA?
DON'T YOU WANT TO SAVE THE BABY?
...
I...
RIGHT NOW, WE SHOULDN'T BE PUTTING THE BABY'S SAFETY FIRST...
...BUT THE MOTHER'S.

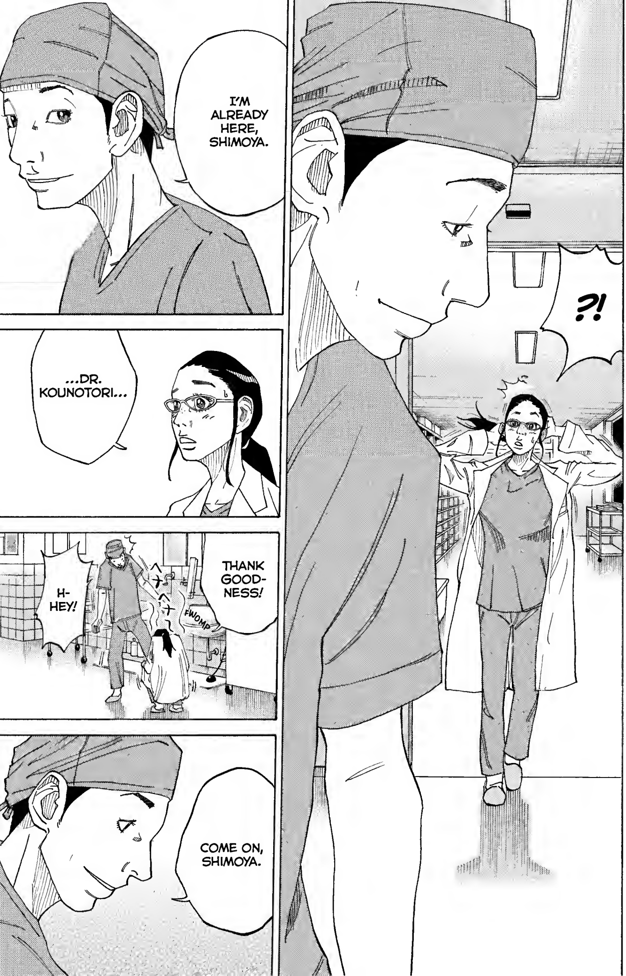

...I WANT TO SAVE BOTH OF YOU, MA'AM.
...IT'S WHAT THE BABY AND I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR, AFTER ALL.
LET'S TRY IT, THEN...

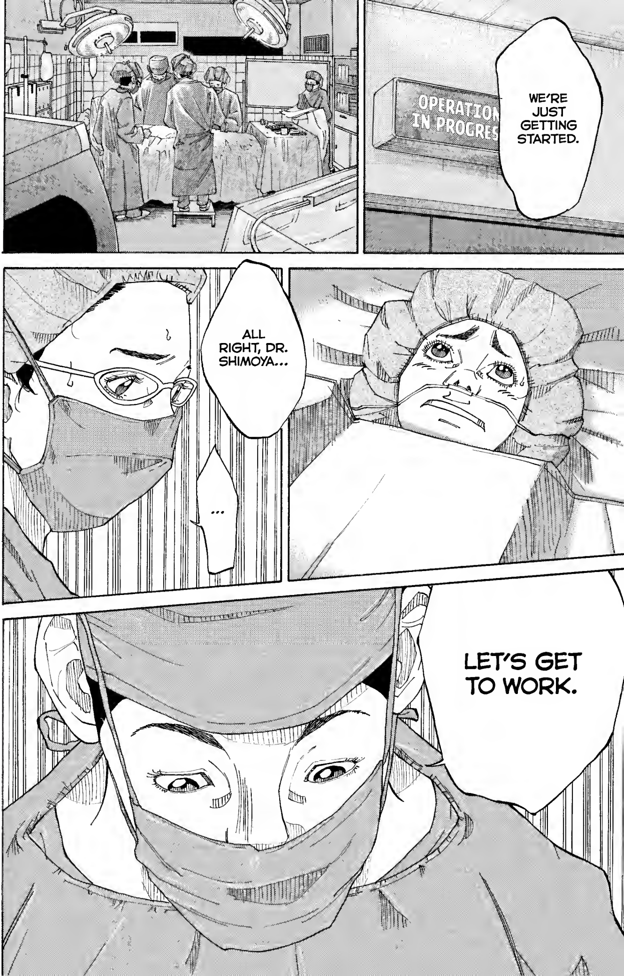

...
I CAN'T DO IT, DR. SHIMOYA...
I CAN'T PUT MY SAFETY FIRST.
IF I GIVE UP ON MY BABY...
...I KNOW FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, I'M GOING TO BE ASKING MYSELF...WHAT IF?
WHAT IF WE'D GONE AHEAD WITH IT? WOULD THAT BABY STILL BE ALIVE TODAY?
I CAN'T DO IT, DOCTOR!


I CAN'T EITHER.
MAYBE WE'RE NOT AS SMART AS YOU, DOCTOR...
...MAYBE WE'RE IN OVER OUR HEADS HERE.
BUT THE WIFE AND I SPENT A LONG TIME THINKING IT OVER, AND YOU KNOW WHAT WE SAID TO OURSELVES?
WE SAID WE'D DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR OUR BABY, NO MATTER WHAT!


I'M WITH MY WIFE ON THIS ONE, DOCTOR.
SO, PLEASE, I'M ASKING YOU...
...DO IT FOR HER. AND FOR THE BABY!

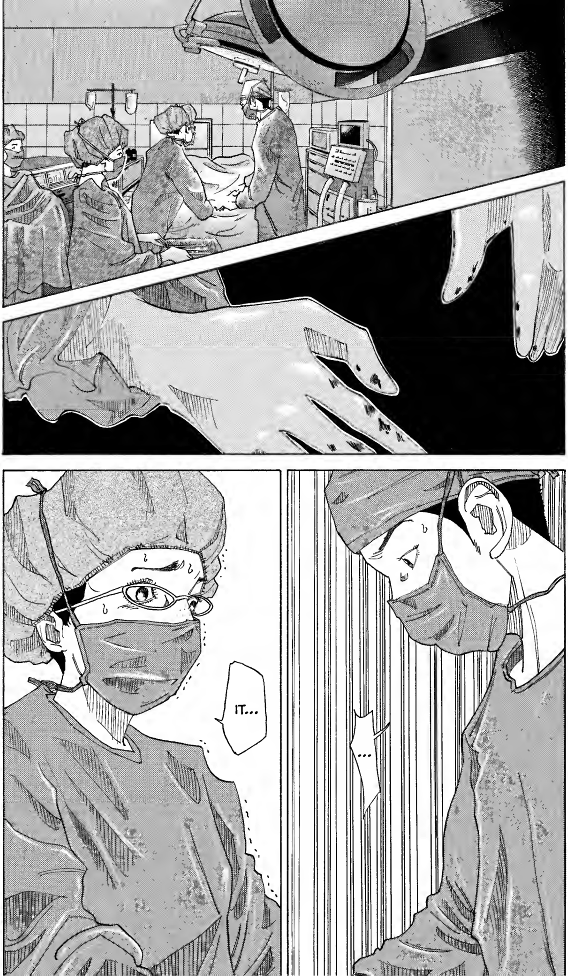

WE'RE DOING AN EMERGENCY C-SECTION!
GET IN TOUCH WITH THE NICU, RIGHT AWAY!
ONCE DR. KOUNOTORI GETS HERE...
...SEND HIM STRAIGHT TO THE OPERATING ROOM!

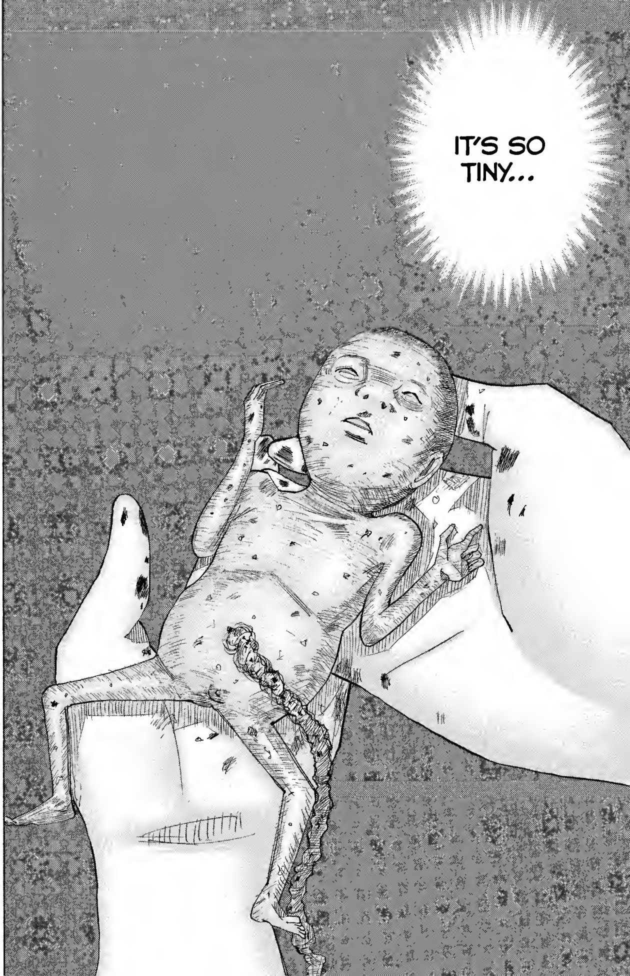

?!
I'M ALREADY HERE, SHIMOYA.
...DR. KOUNOTORI...
THANK GOODNESS!
ヘナヘナ
FWOMP
H-HEY!
COME ON, SHIMOYA.

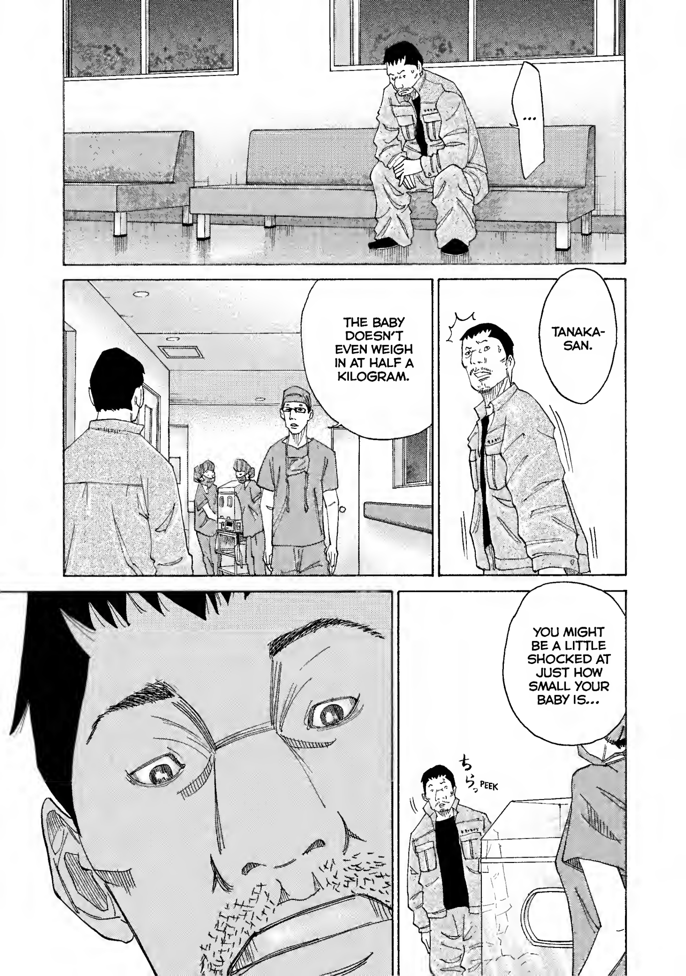

OPERATION
IN PROGRES
WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.
ALL RIGHT, DR. SHIMOYA...
...
LET'S GET TO WORK.

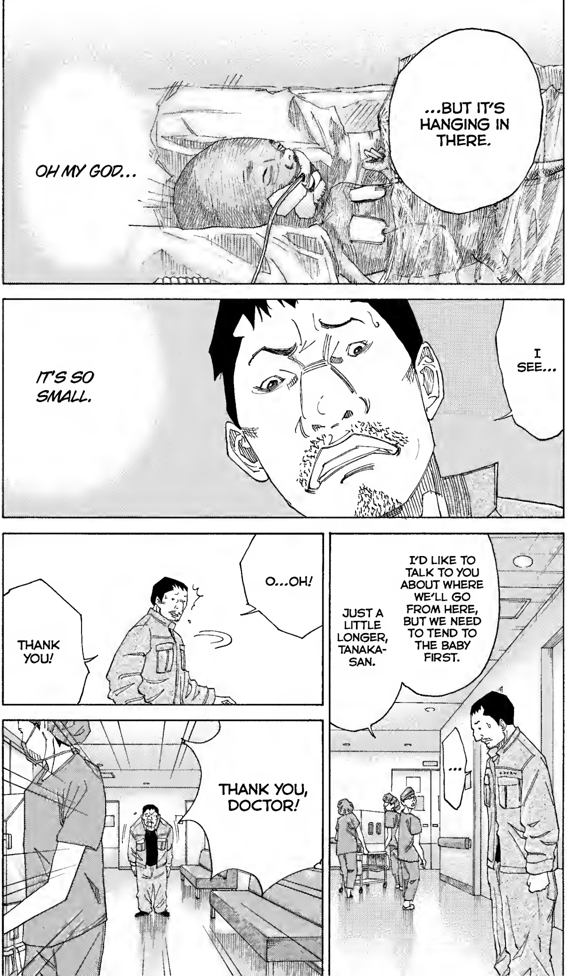
THREATENED MISCARRIAGE (3) / END

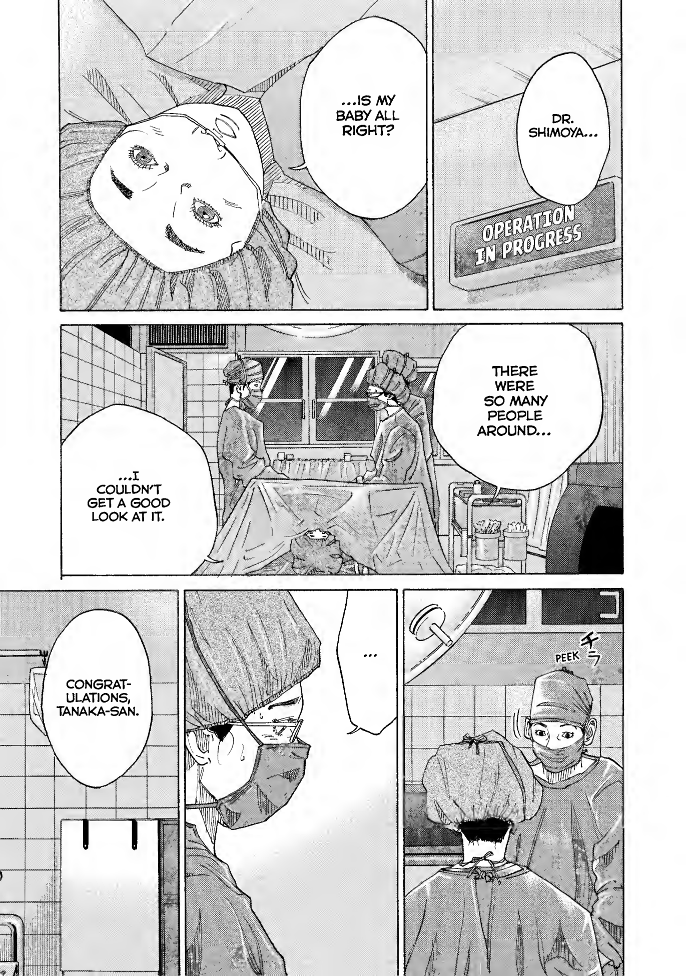
THREATENED MISCARRIAGE (4)

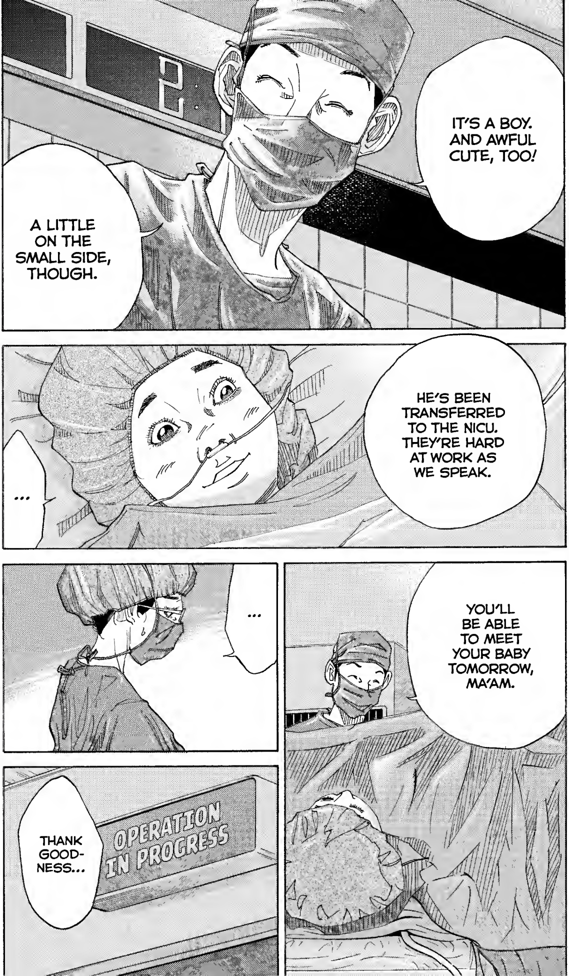


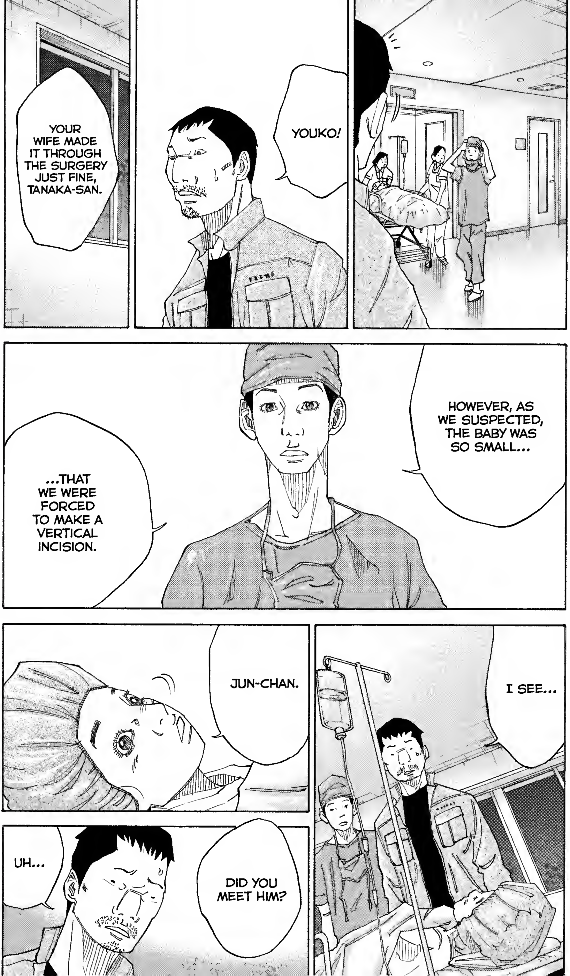

IT'S SO TINY...

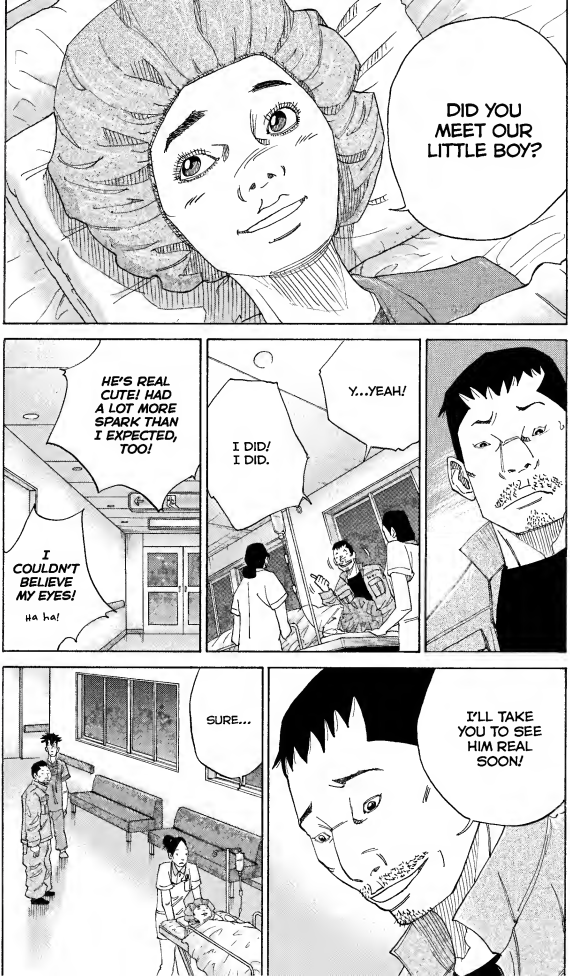

...
TANAKA-SAN.
THE BABY DOESN'T EVEN WEIGH IN AT HALF A KILOGRAM.
YOU MIGHT BE A LITTLE SHOCKED AT JUST HOW SMALL YOUR BABY IS...
ちらっ PEEK

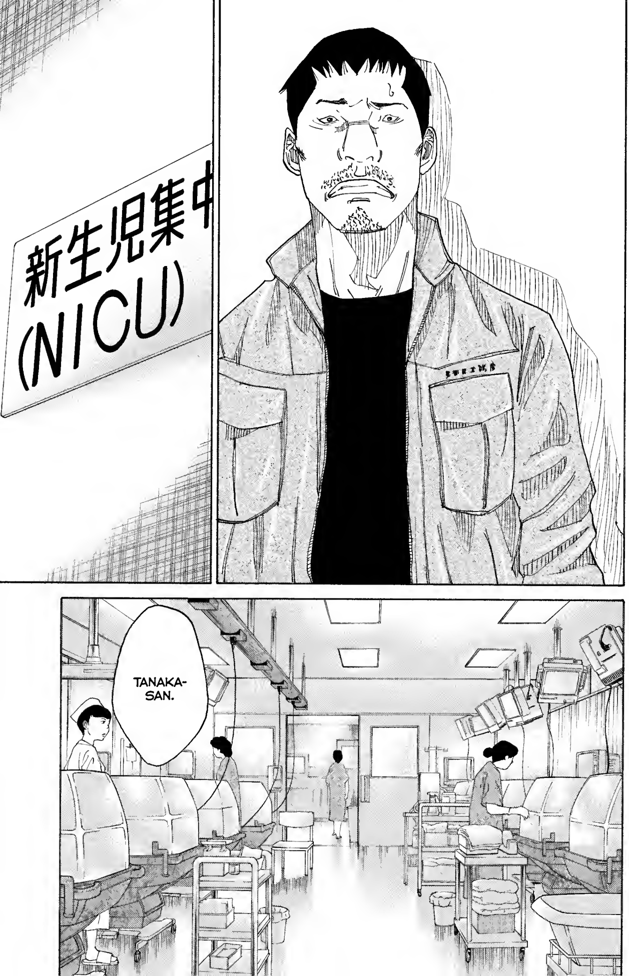

...BUT IT'S HANGING IN THERE.
OH MY GOD...
I SEE...
IT'S SO SMALL.
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHERE WE'LL GO FROM HERE, BUT WE NEED TO TEND TO THE BABY FIRST.
JUST A LITTLE LONGER, TANAKA-SAN.
...
O...OH!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU, DOCTOR!

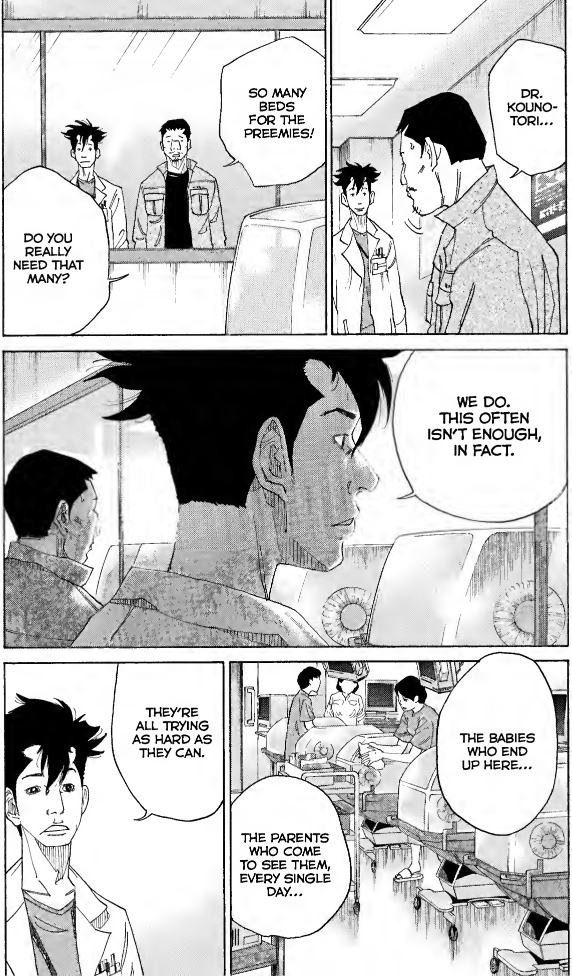

DR. SHIMOYA...
OPERATION IN PROGRESS
...IS MY BABY ALL RIGHT?
THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND...
...I COULDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT IT.
PEEK チラ
...
CONGRATULATIONS, TANAKA-SAN.

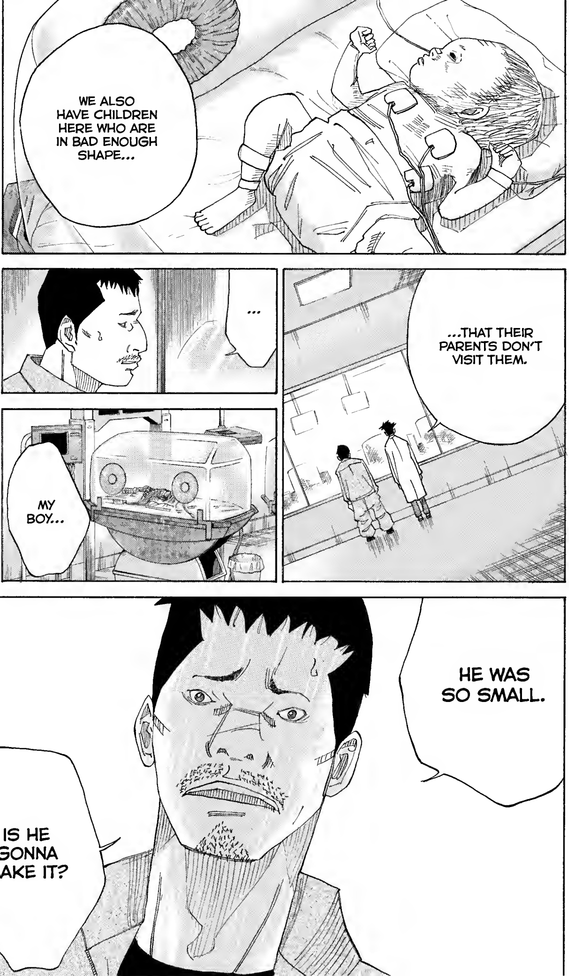

IT'S A BOY. AND AWFUL CUTE, TOO!
A LITTLE ON THE SMALL SIDE, THOUGH.
HE'S BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE NICU. THEY'RE HARD AT WORK AS WE SPEAK.
...
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MEET YOUR BABY TOMORROW, MA'AM.
...
OPERATION IN PROGRESS
THANK GOODNESS...

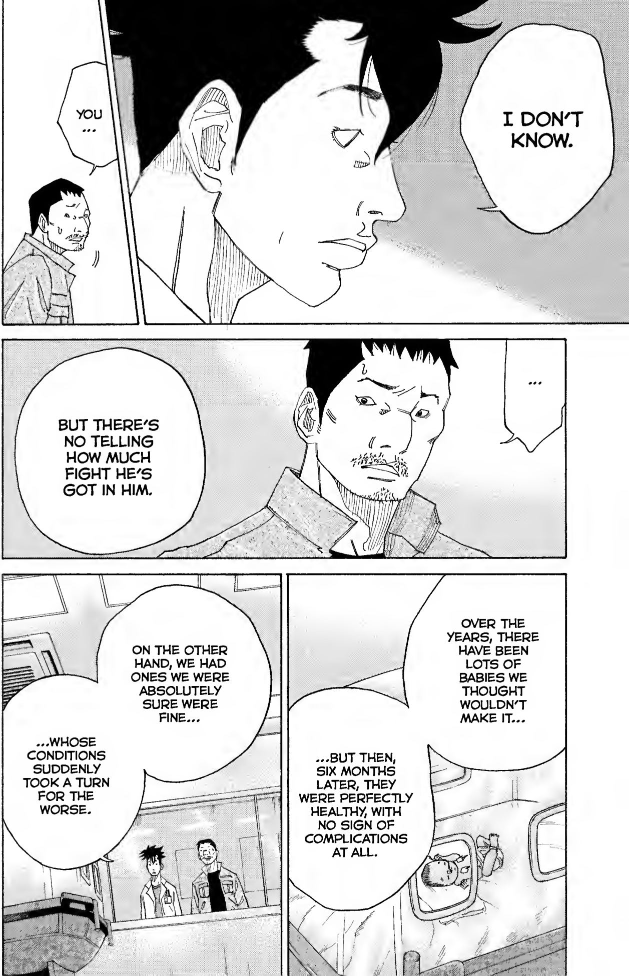

YOUKO!
YOUR WIFE MADE IT THROUGH THE SURGERY JUST FINE, TANAKA-SAN.
HOWEVER, AS WE SUSPECTED, THE BABY WAS SO SMALL...
...THAT WE WERE FORCED TO MAKE A VERTICAL INCISION.
I SEE...
JUN-CHAN.
DID YOU MEET HIM?
UH...

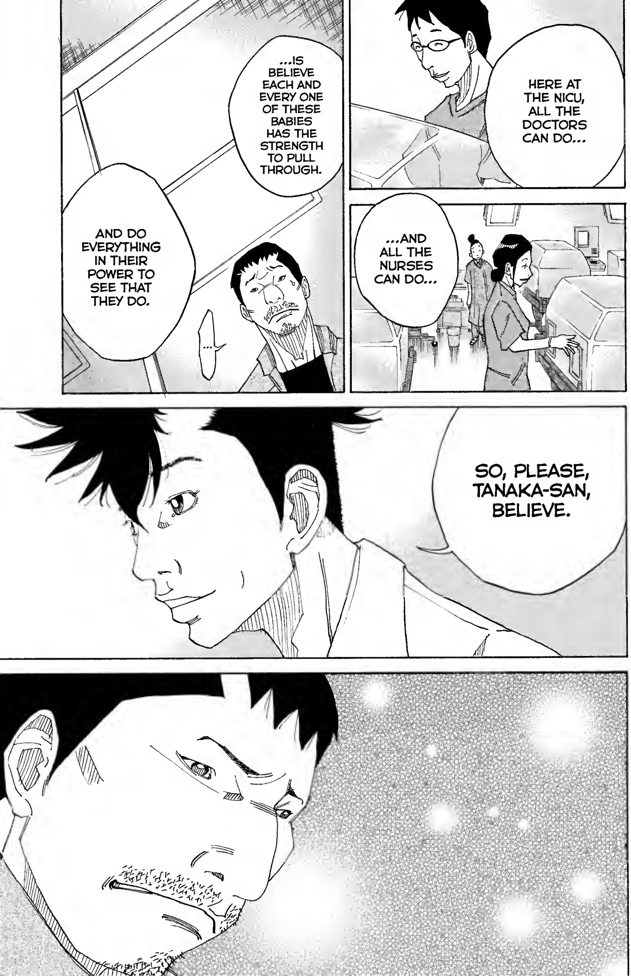

DID YOU MEET OUR LITTLE BOY?
Y...YEAH!
I DID! I DID.
HE'S REAL CUTE! HAD A LOT MORE SPARK THAN I EXPECTED, TOO!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!
Ha ha!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO SEE HIM REAL SOON!
SURE...

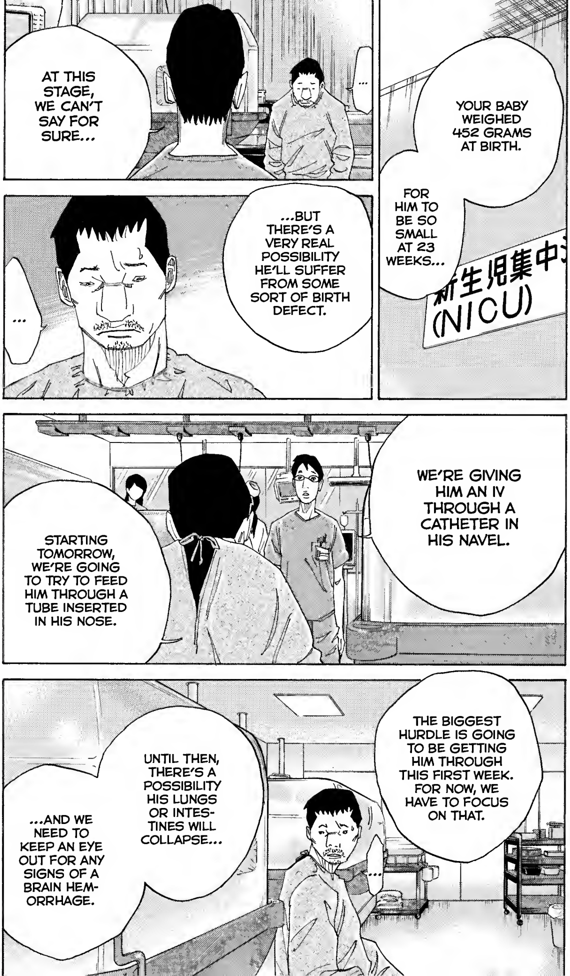

新生児集中
(NICU)
TANAKA-SAN.

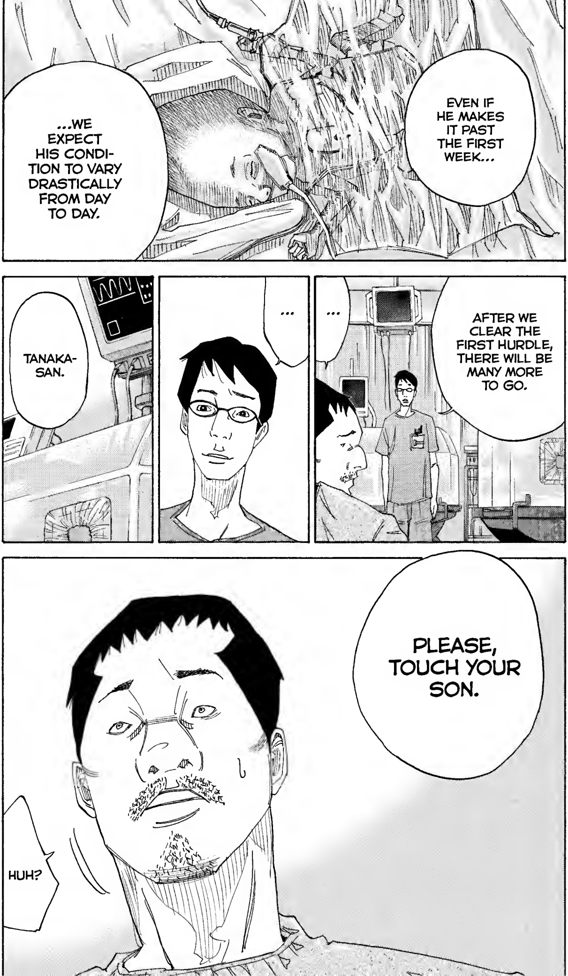

DR. KOUNOTORI...
SO MANY BEDS FOR THE PREEMIES!
DO YOU REALLY NEED THAT MANY?
WE DO. THIS OFTEN ISN'T ENOUGH, IN FACT.
THE BABIES WHO END UP HERE...
THE PARENTS WHO COME TO SEE THEM, EVERY SINGLE DAY...
THEY'RE ALL TRYING AS HARD AS THEY CAN.

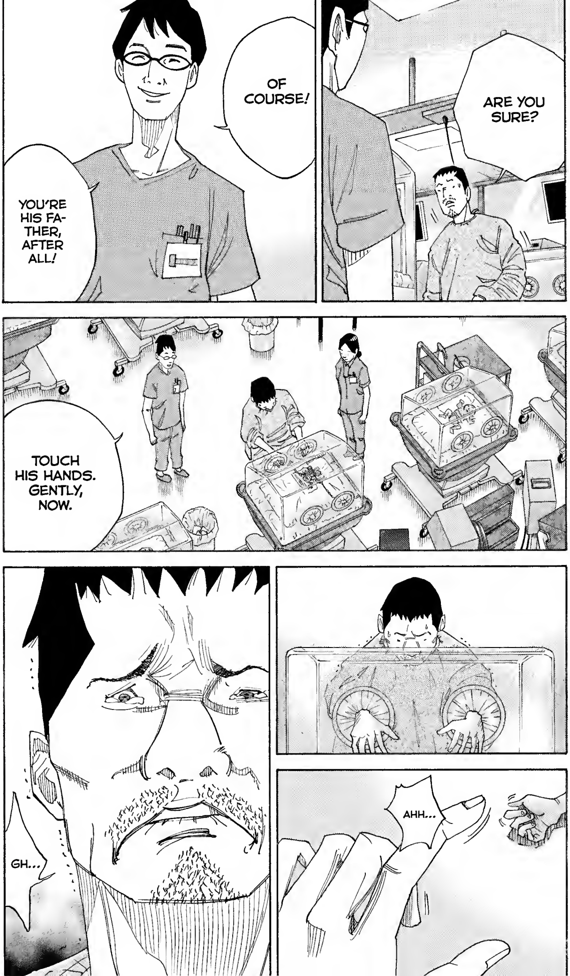

WE ALSO HAVE CHILDREN HERE WHO ARE IN BAD ENOUGH SHAPE...
...THAT THEIR PARENTS DON'T VISIT THEM.
...
MY BOY...
HE WAS SO SMALL.
IS HE GONNA MAKE IT?

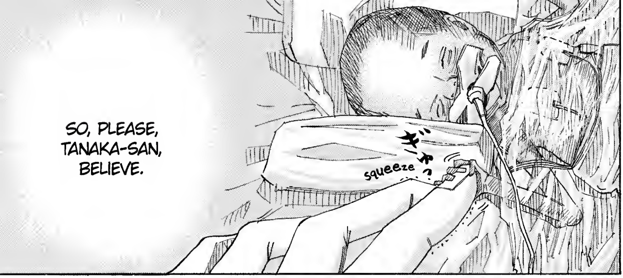

I DON'T KNOW.
YOU ...
...
BUT THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH FIGHT HE'S GOT IN HIM.
OVER THE YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN LOTS OF BABIES WE THOUGHT WOULDN'T MAKE IT...
...BUT THEN, SIX MONTHS LATER, THEY WERE PERFECTLY HEALTHY, WITH NO SIGN OF COMPLICATIONS AT ALL.
ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAD ONES WE WERE ABSOLUTELY SURE WERE FINE...
...WHOSE CONDITIONS SUDDENLY TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE.


HERE AT THE NICU, ALL THE DOCTORS CAN DO...
...AND ALL THE NURSES CAN DO...
...IS BELIEVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE BABIES HAS THE STRENGTH TO PULL THROUGH.
AND DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO SEE THAT THEY DO.
...
SO, PLEASE, TANAKA-SAN, BELIEVE.

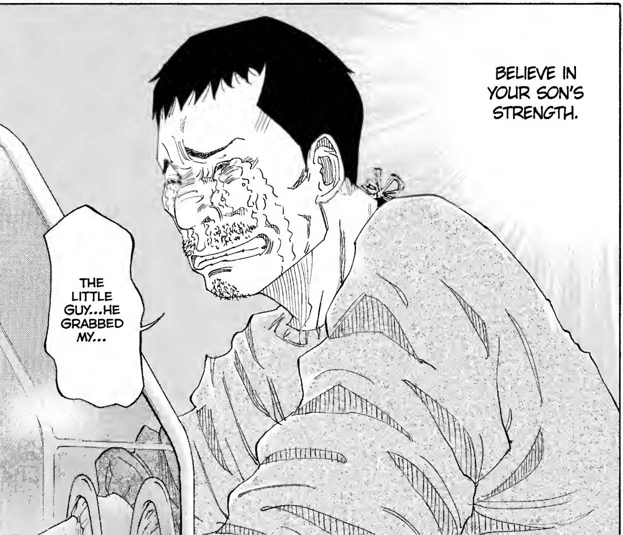

YOUR BABY WEIGHED 452 GRAMS AT BIRTH.
FOR HIM TO BE SO SMALL AT 23 WEEKS...
新生児集中
(NICU)
...
AT THIS STAGE, WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE...
...BUT THERE'S A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY HE'LL SUFFER FROM SOME SORT OF BIRTH DEFECT.
...
WE'RE GIVING HIM AN IV THROUGH A CATHETER IN HIS NAVEL.
STARTING TOMORROW, WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO FEED HIM THROUGH A TUBE INSERTED IN HIS NOSE.
THE BIGGEST HURDLE IS GOING TO BE GETTING HIM THROUGH THIS FIRST WEEK. FOR NOW, WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON THAT.
...
UNTIL THEN, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY HIS LUNGS OR INTESTINES WILL COLLAPSE...
...AND WE NEED TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY SIGNS OF A BRAIN HEMORRHAGE.

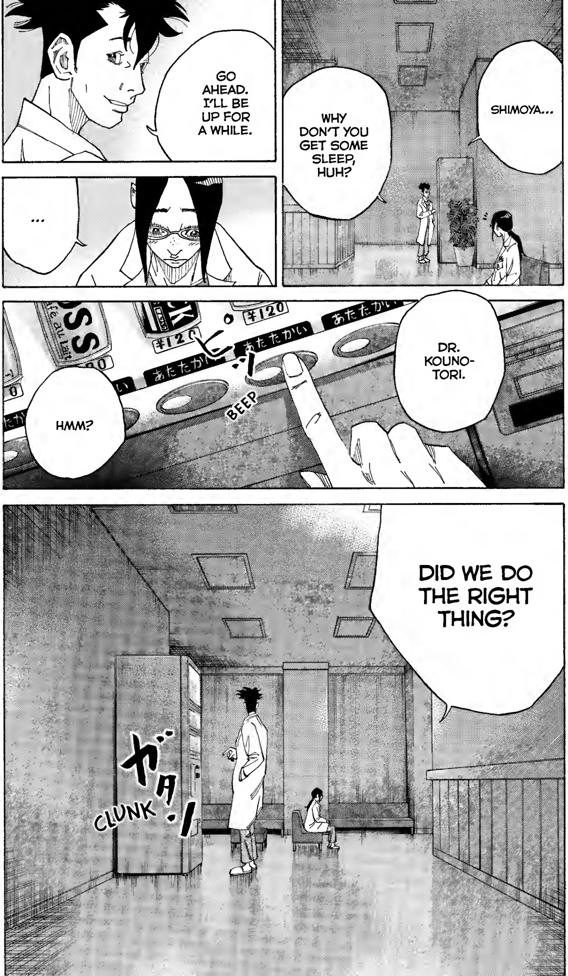

EVEN IF HE MAKES IT PAST THE FIRST WEEK...
...WE EXPECT HIS CONDITION TO VARY DRASTICALLY FROM DAY TO DAY.
AFTER WE CLEAR THE FIRST HURDLE, THERE WILL BE MANY MORE TO GO.
...
...
TANAKA-SAN.
PLEASE, TOUCH YOUR SON.
HUH?


ARE YOU SURE?
OF COURSE!
YOU'RE HIS FATHER, AFTER ALL!
TOUCH HIS HANDS. GENTLY, NOW.
GH...
AHH...

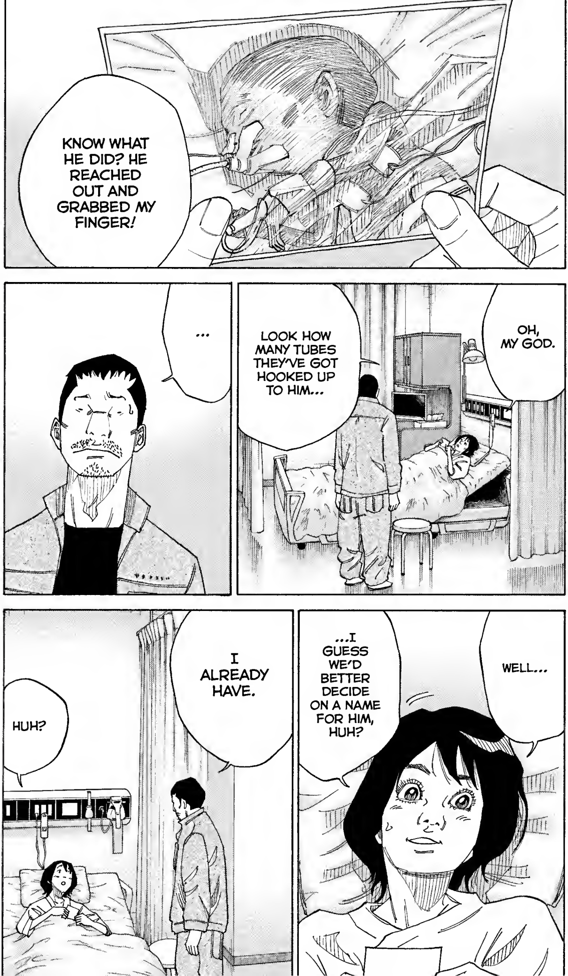

SO, PLEASE, TANAKA-SAN, BELIEVE.
squeeze

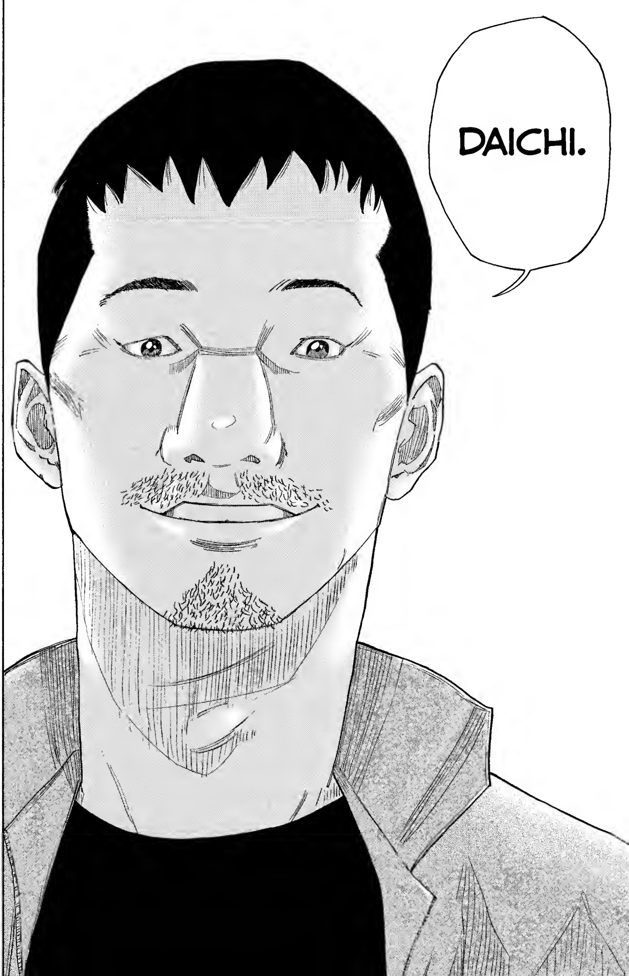
HA HA!

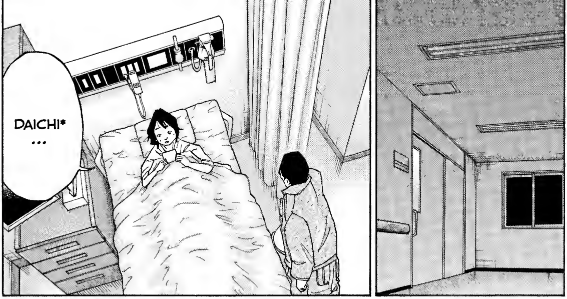

BELIEVE IN YOUR SON'S STRENGTH.
THE LITTLE GUY...HE GRABBED MY...


SHIMOYA...
WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME SLEEP, HUH?
GO AHEAD. I'LL BE UP FOR A WHILE.
...
DR. KOUNOTORI.
あたたかい
あたたかい
あたたかい
¥120
¥120
BOSS
Café au Lait
ピッ
BEEP
HMM?
DID WE DO THE RIGHT THING?
ガタ!
CLUNK!

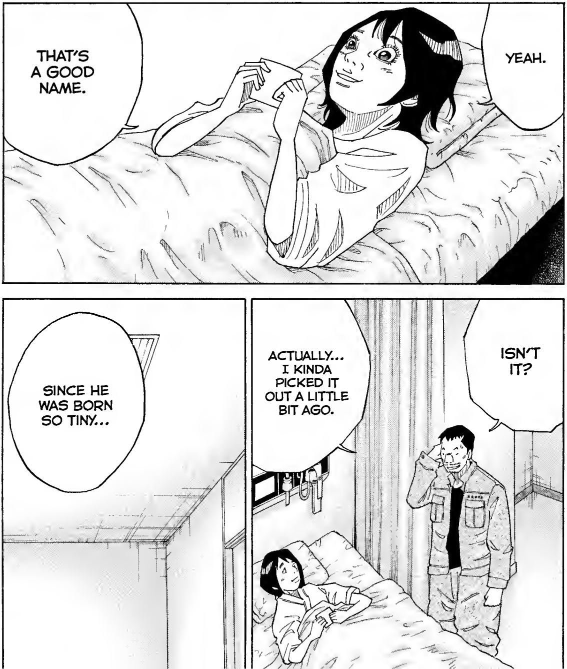
THREATENED MISCARRIAGE (4) / END

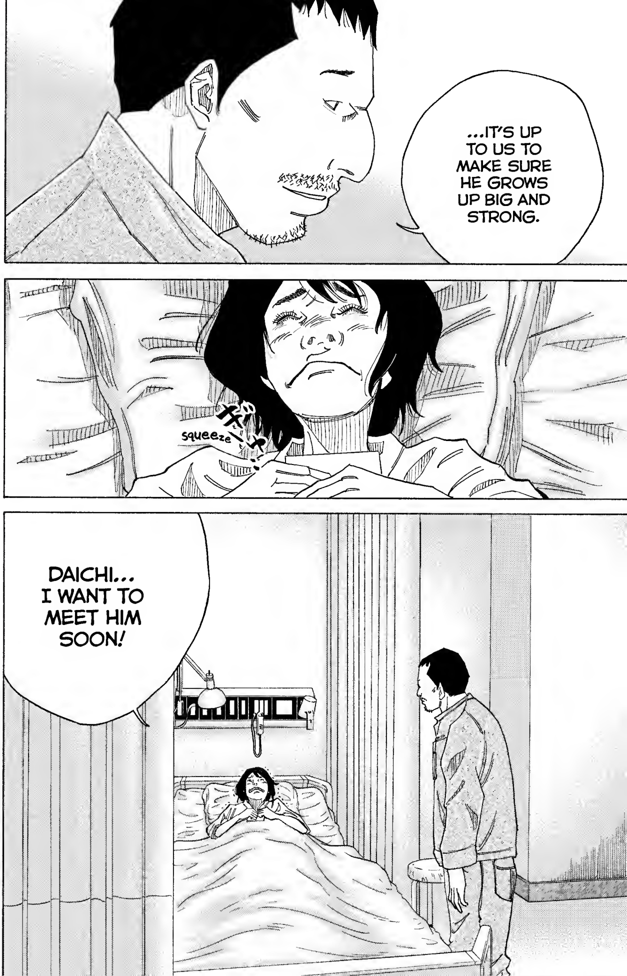

KNOW WHAT HE DID? HE REACHED OUT AND GRABBED MY FINGER!
OH, MY GOD.
LOOK HOW MANY TUBES THEY'VE GOT HOOKED UP TO HIM...
...
WELL...
...I GUESS WE'D BETTER DECIDE ON A NAME FOR HIM, HUH?
I ALREADY HAVE.
HUH?

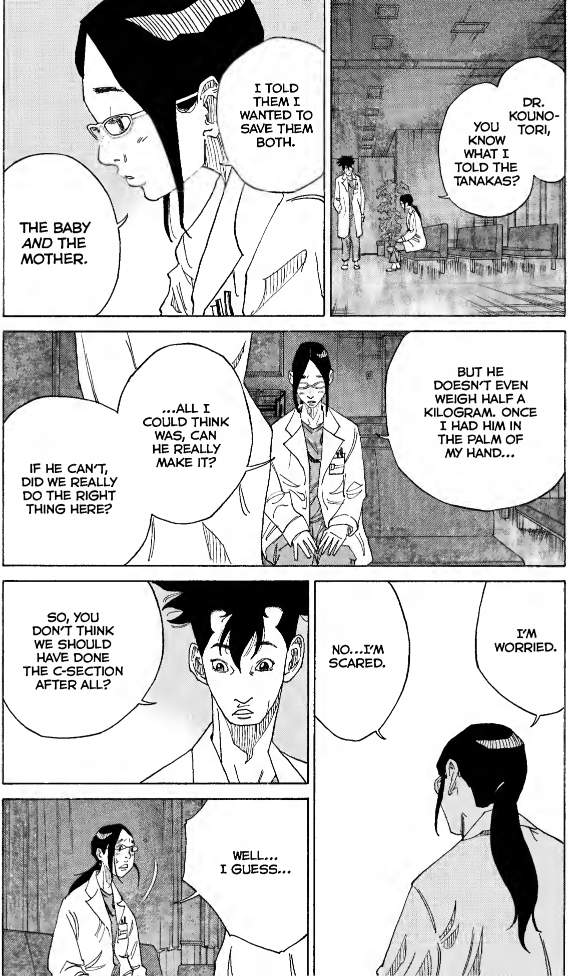

DAICHI.

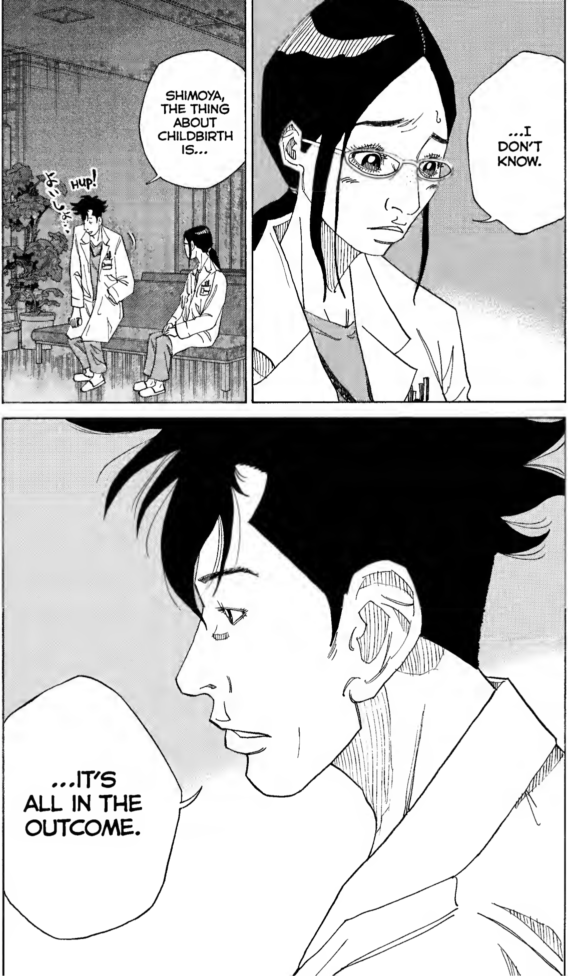


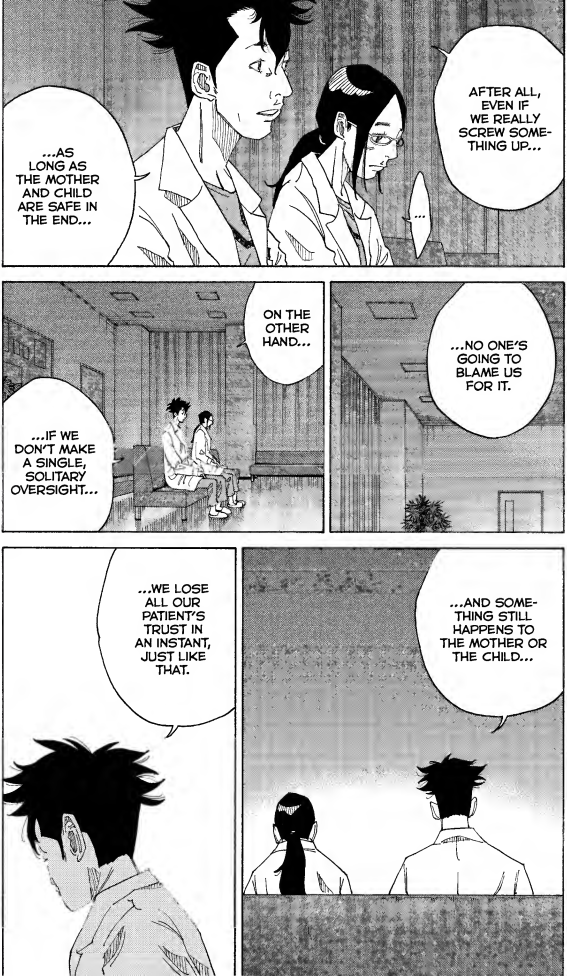
DAICHI: A JAPANESE BOYS' NAME WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS "GREAT" AND "EARTH".

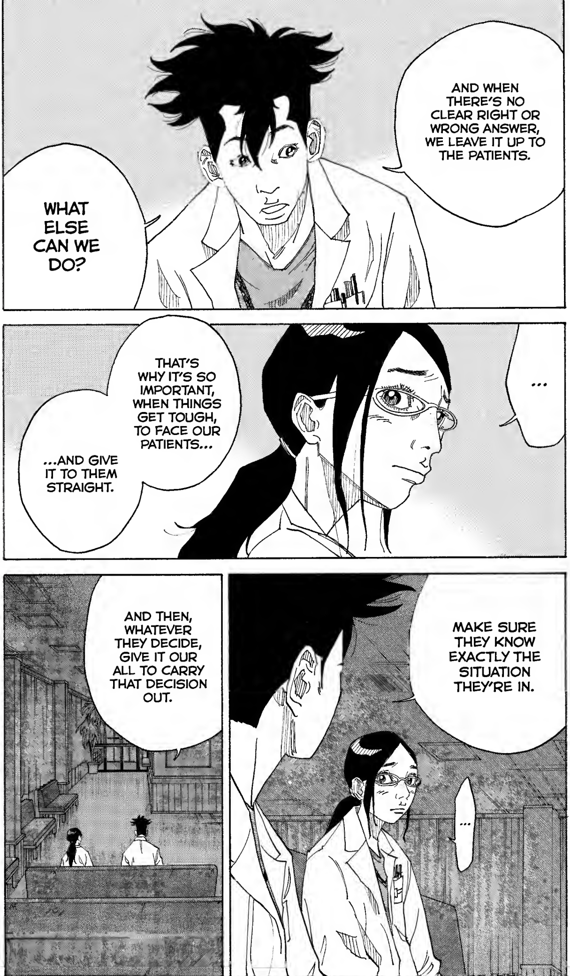

YEAH.
THAT'S A GOOD NAME.
ISN'T IT?
ACTUALLY... I KINDA PICKED IT OUT A LITTLE BIT AGO.
SINCE HE WAS BORN SO TINY...

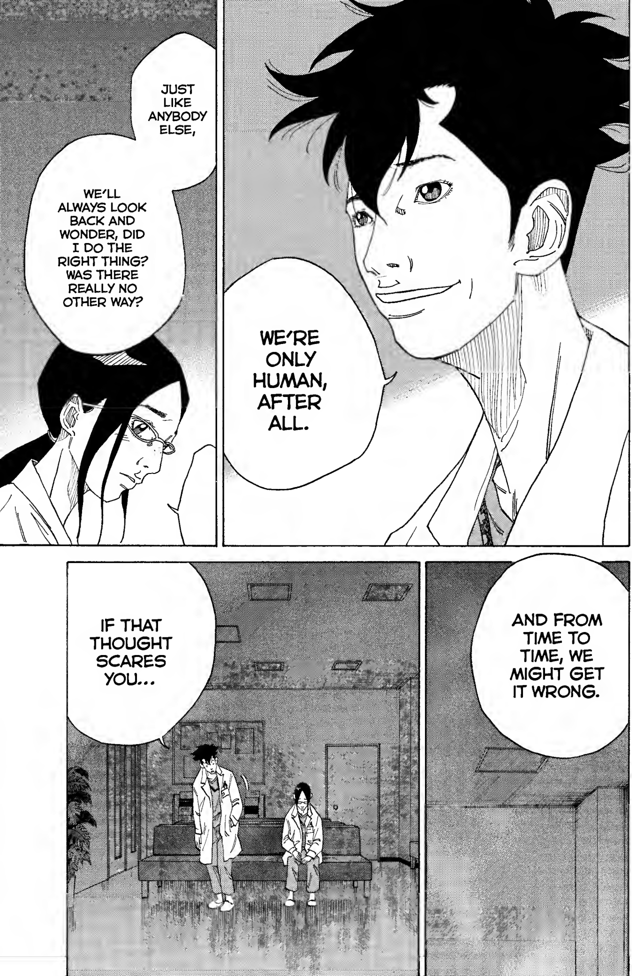

...IT'S UP TO US TO MAKE SURE HE GROWS UP BIG AND STRONG.
ギュッ
squeeze
DAICHI... I WANT TO MEET HIM SOON!

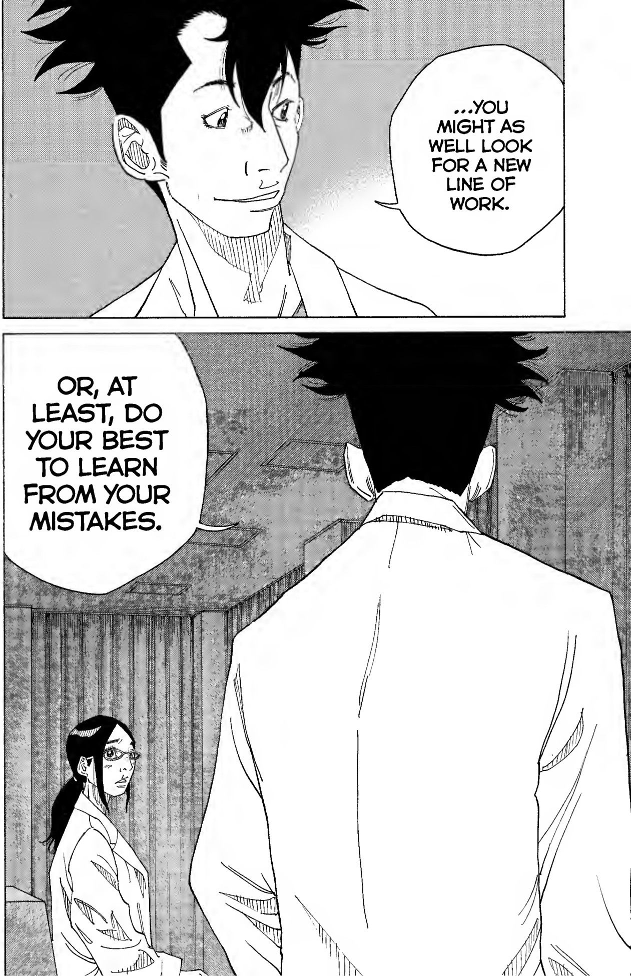

DR. KOUNOTORI, YOU KNOW WHAT I TOLD THE TANAKAS?
I TOLD THEM I WANTED TO SAVE THEM BOTH.
THE BABY *AND* THE MOTHER.
BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN WEIGH HALF A KILOGRAM. ONCE I HAD HIM IN THE PALM OF MY HAND...
...ALL I COULD THINK WAS, CAN HE REALLY MAKE IT?
IF HE CAN'T, DID WE REALLY DO THE RIGHT THING HERE?
I'M WORRIED.
NO...I'M SCARED.
SO, YOU DON'T THINK WE SHOULD HAVE DONE THE C-SECTION AFTER ALL?
WELL... I GUESS...

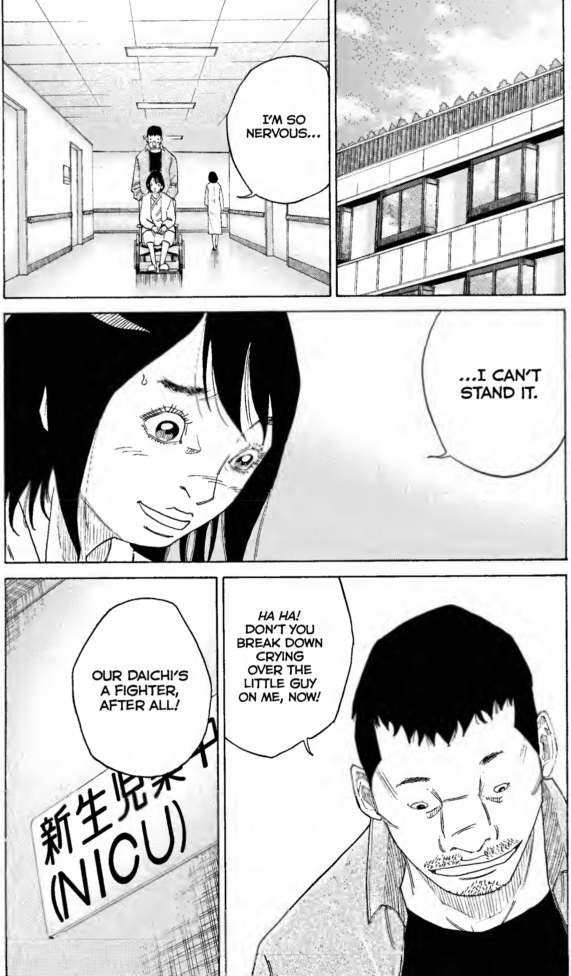

...I DON'T KNOW.
SHIMOYA, THE THING ABOUT CHILDBIRTH IS...
HUP!
よいしょ...
...IT'S ALL IN THE OUTCOME.

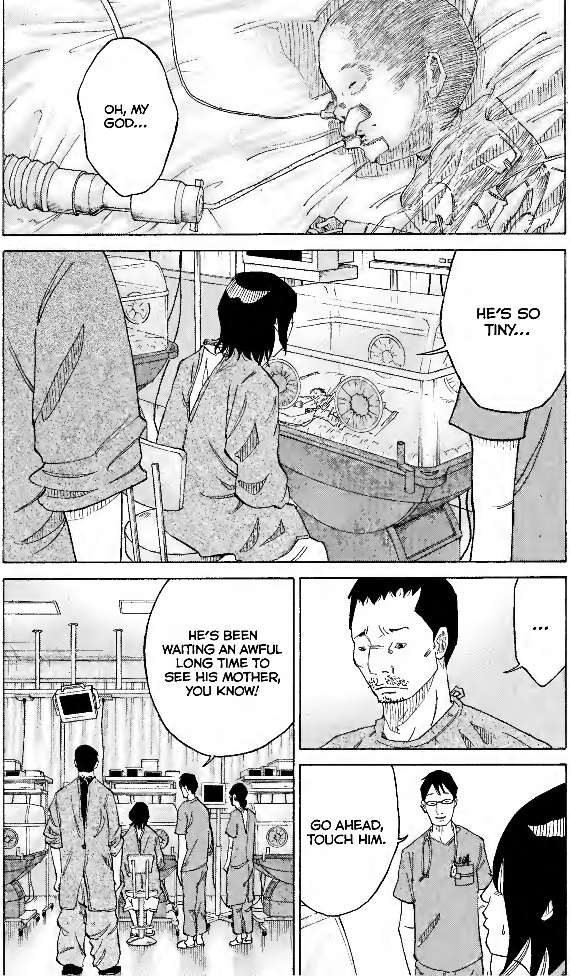

AFTER ALL, EVEN IF WE REALLY SCREW SOMETHING UP...
...
...AS LONG AS THE MOTHER AND CHILD ARE SAFE IN THE END...
...NO ONE'S GOING TO BLAME US FOR IT.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
...IF WE DON'T MAKE A SINGLE, SOLITARY OVERSIGHT...
...AND SOMETHING STILL HAPPENS TO THE MOTHER OR THE CHILD...
...WE LOSE ALL OUR PATIENT'S TRUST IN AN INSTANT, JUST LIKE THAT.

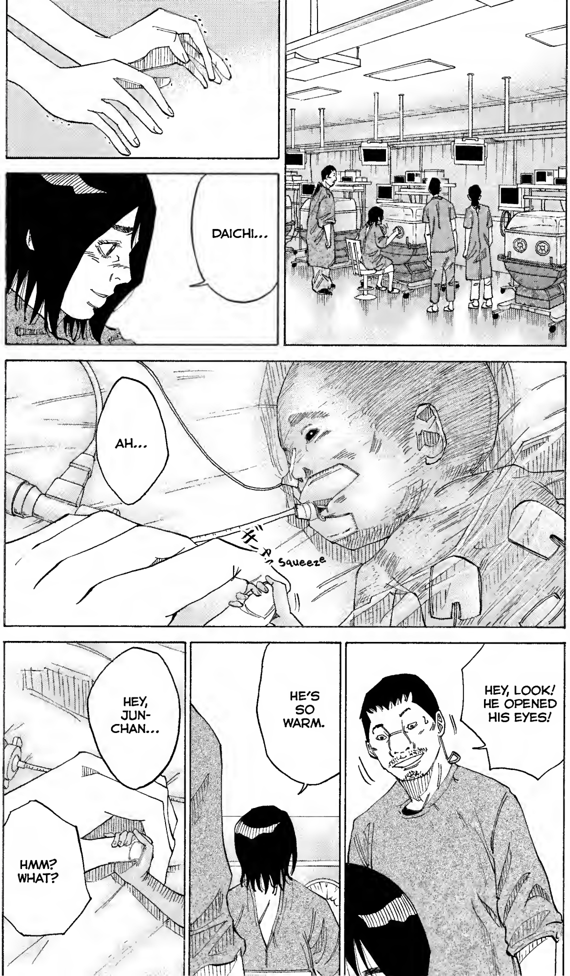

AND WHEN THERE'S NO CLEAR RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER, WE LEAVE IT UP TO THE PATIENTS.
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
...
THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT, WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH, TO FACE OUR PATIENTS...
...AND GIVE IT TO THEM STRAIGHT.
MAKE SURE THEY KNOW EXACTLY THE SITUATION THEY'RE IN.
...
AND THEN, WHATEVER THEY DECIDE, GIVE IT OUR ALL TO CARRY THAT DECISION OUT.

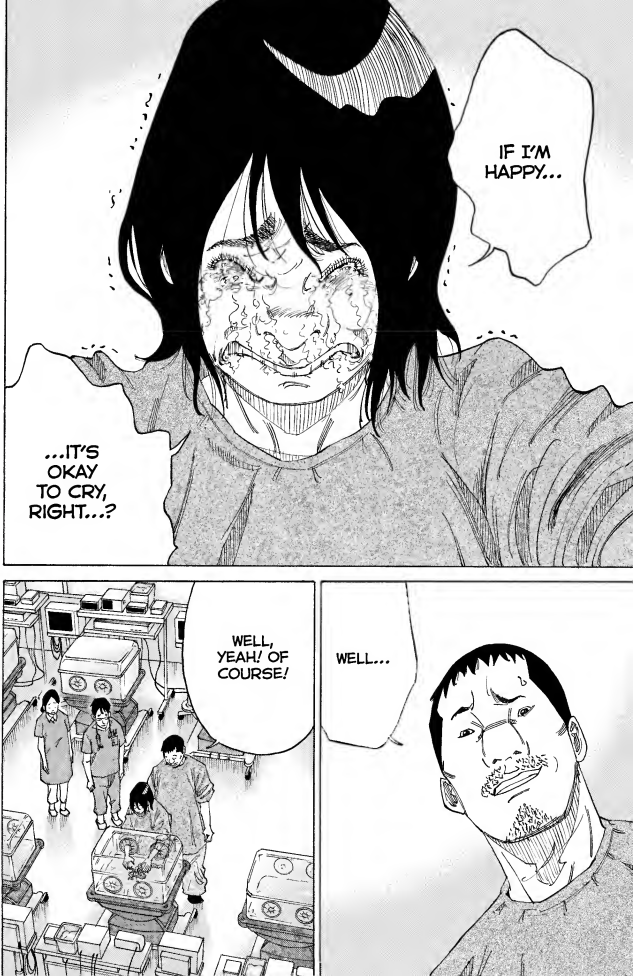

WE'RE ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE,
WE'LL ALWAYS LOOK BACK AND WONDER, DID I DO THE RIGHT THING? WAS THERE REALLY NO OTHER WAY?
AND FROM TIME TO TIME, WE MIGHT GET IT WRONG.
IF THAT THOUGHT SCARES YOU...

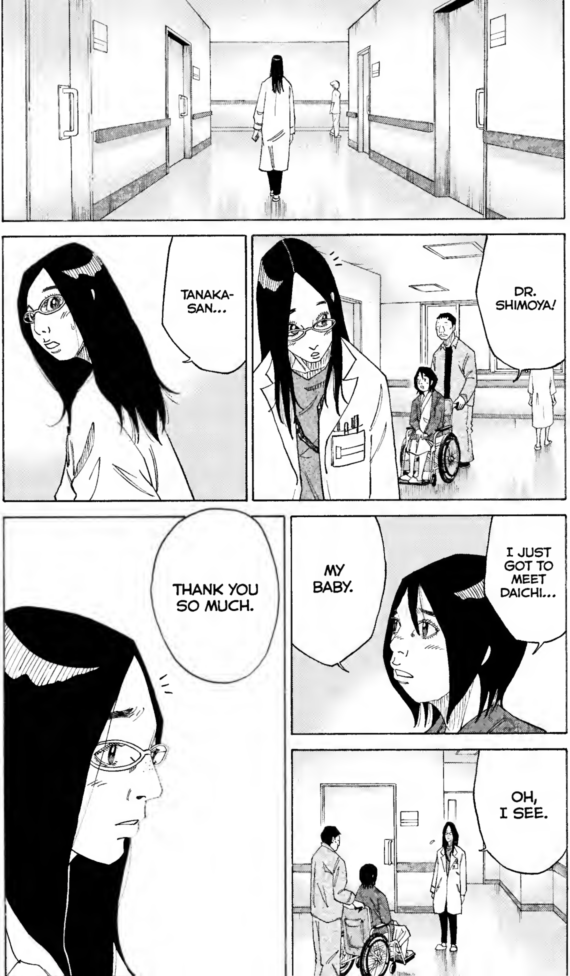

...YOU MIGHT AS WELL LOOK FOR A NEW LINE OF WORK.
OR, AT LEAST, DO YOUR BEST TO LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES.

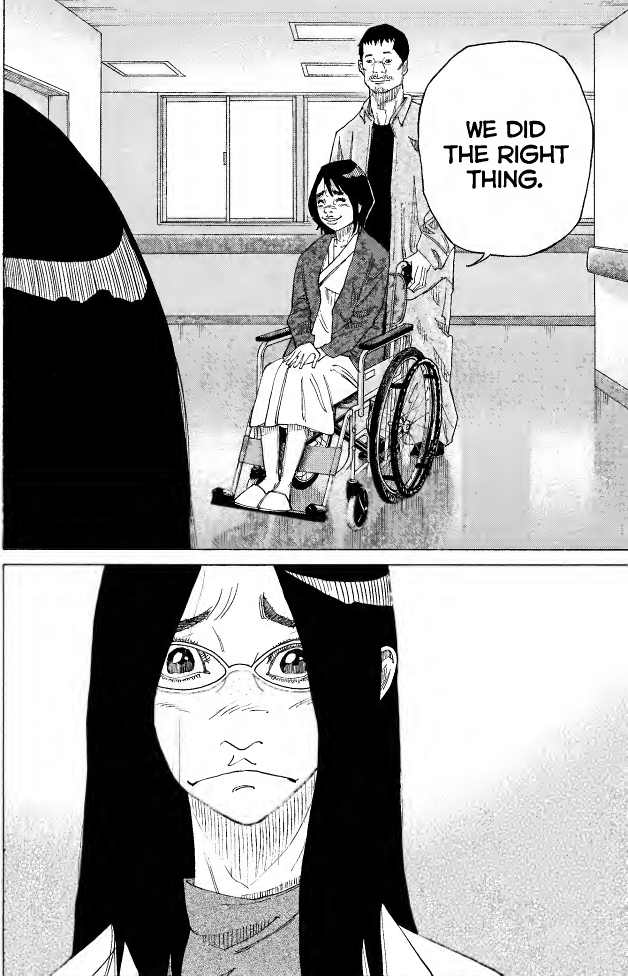

I'M SO NERVOUS...
...I CAN'T STAND IT.
HA HA! DON'T YOU BREAK DOWN CRYING OVER THE LITTLE GUY ON ME, NOW!
OUR DAICHI'S A FIGHTER, AFTER ALL!
新生児 (NICU)

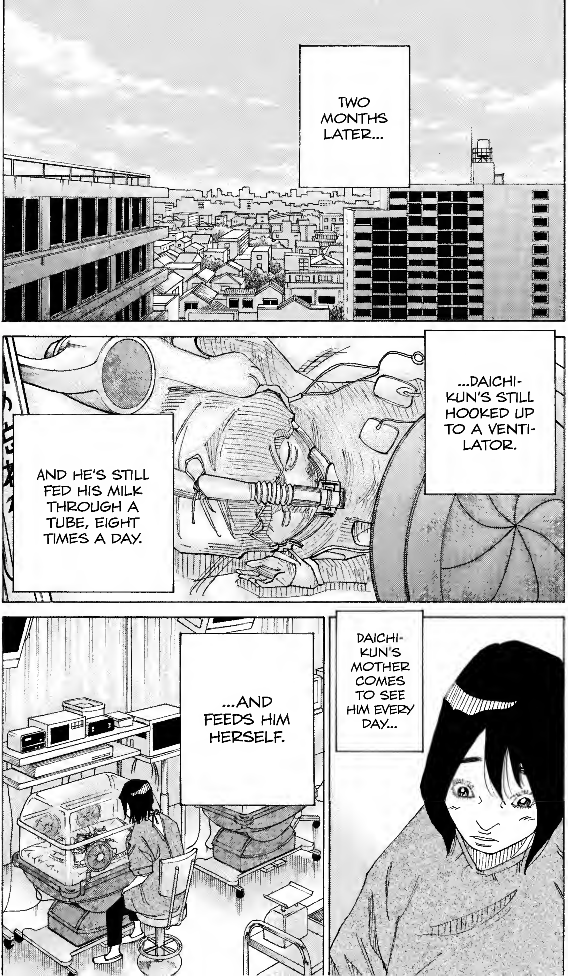

OH, MY GOD...
HE'S SO TINY...
HE'S BEEN WAITING AN AWFUL LONG TIME TO SEE HIS MOTHER, YOU KNOW!
...
GO AHEAD, TOUCH HIM.

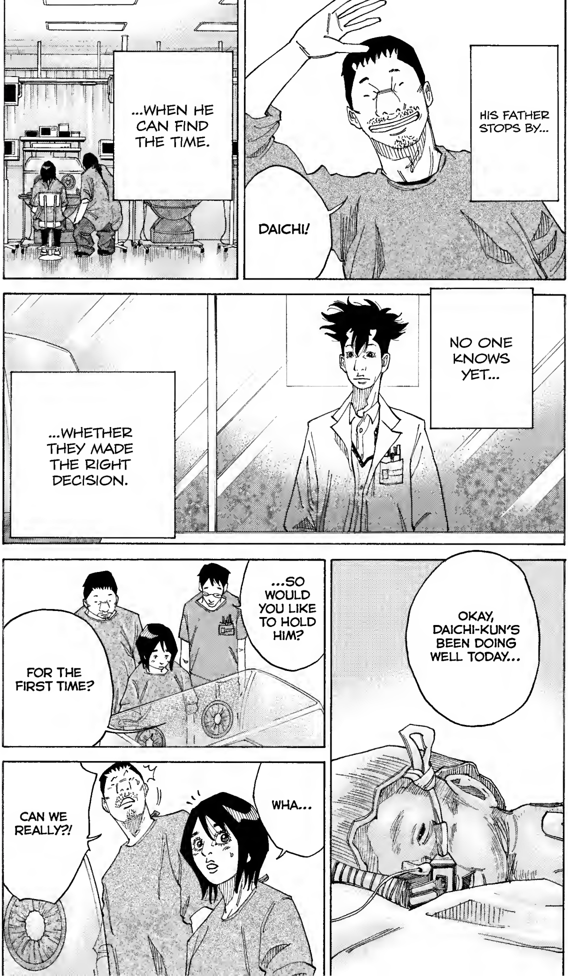

DAICHI...
AH...
ギュッ
squeeze
HEY, LOOK! HE OPENED HIS EYES!
HE'S SO WARM.
HEY, JUN-CHAN...
HMM? WHAT?

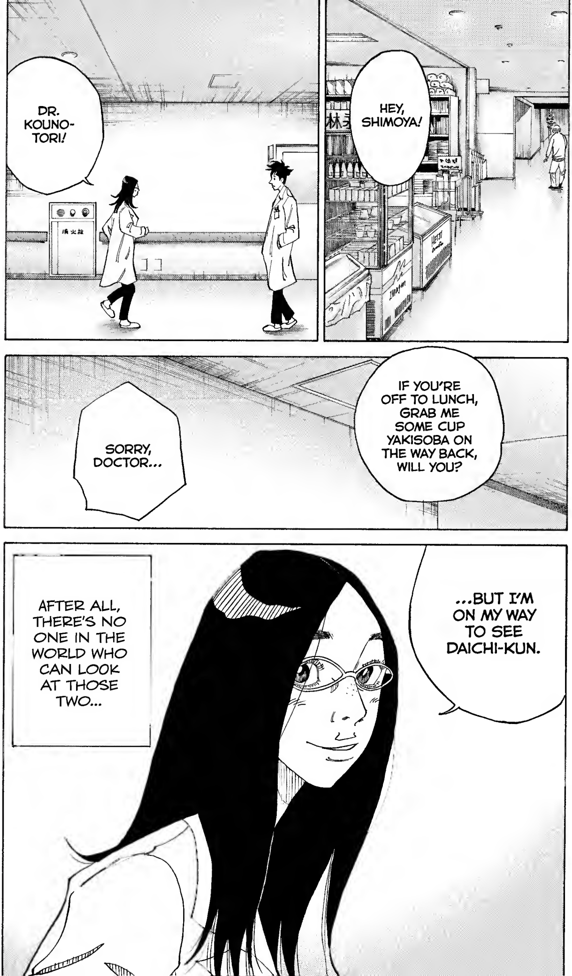

IF I'M HAPPY...
...IT'S OKAY TO CRY, RIGHT...?
WELL...
WELL, YEAH! OF COURSE!

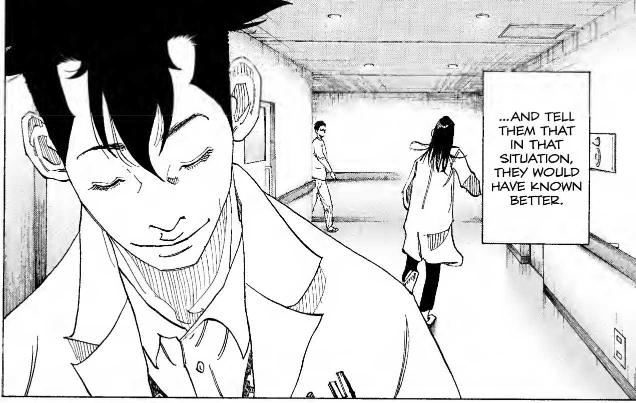

DR. SHIMOYA!
TANAKA-SAN...
I JUST GOT TO MEET DAICHI...
MY BABY.
OH, I SEE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

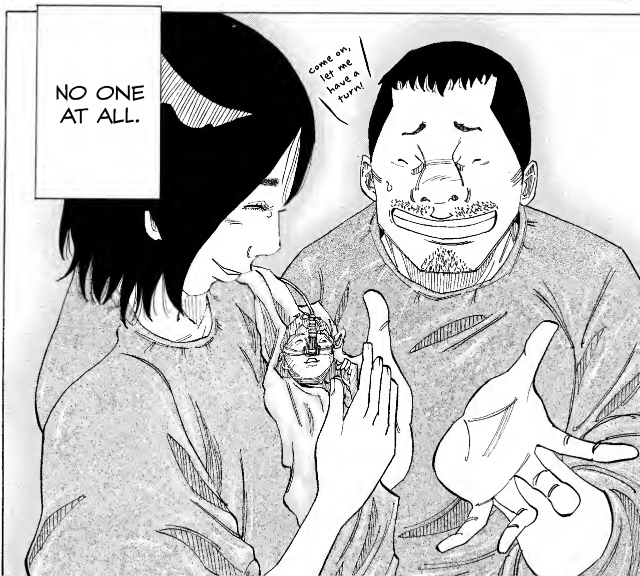

WE DID THE RIGHT THING.


TWO MONTHS LATER...
...DAICHI-KUN'S STILL HOOKED UP TO A VENTILATOR.
AND HE'S STILL FED HIS MILK THROUGH A TUBE, EIGHT TIMES A DAY.
DAICHI-KUN'S MOTHER COMES TO SEE HIM EVERY DAY...
...AND FEEDS HIM HERSELF.


HIS FATHER STOPS BY...
DAICHI!
...WHEN HE CAN FIND THE TIME.
NO ONE KNOWS YET...
...WHETHER THEY MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.
OKAY, DAICHI-KUN'S BEEN DOING WELL TODAY...
...SO WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOLD HIM?
FOR THE FIRST TIME?
WHA...
CAN WE REALLY?!

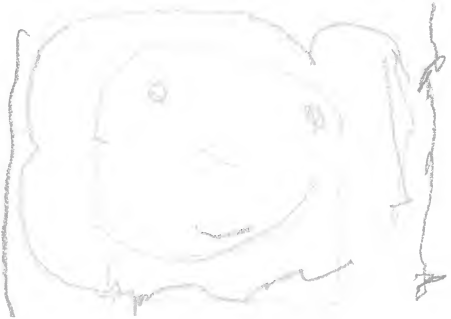

HEY, SHIMOYA!
DR. KOUNOTORI!
IF YOU'RE OFF TO LUNCH, GRAB ME SOME CUP YAKISOBA ON THE WAY BACK, WILL YOU?
SORRY, DOCTOR...
...BUT I'M ON MY WAY TO SEE DAICHI-KUN.
AFTER ALL, THERE'S NO ONE IN THE WORLD WHO CAN LOOK AT THOSE TWO...


...AND TELL THEM THAT IN THAT SITUATION, THEY WOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.


come on, let me have a turn!
NO ONE AT ALL.

THREATENED MISCARRIAGE (5) / END

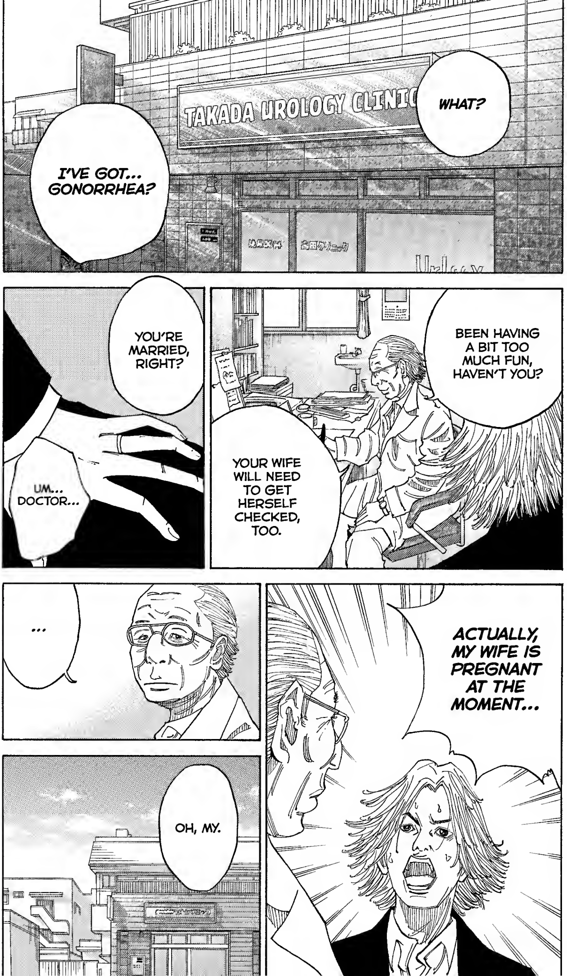
The first lion
he ever drew!

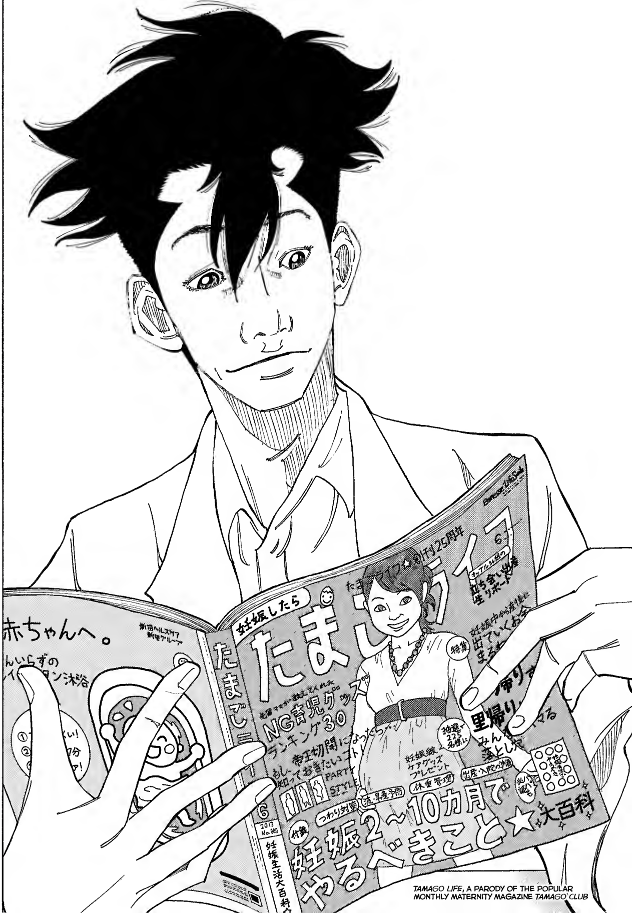


Tenta, age 3

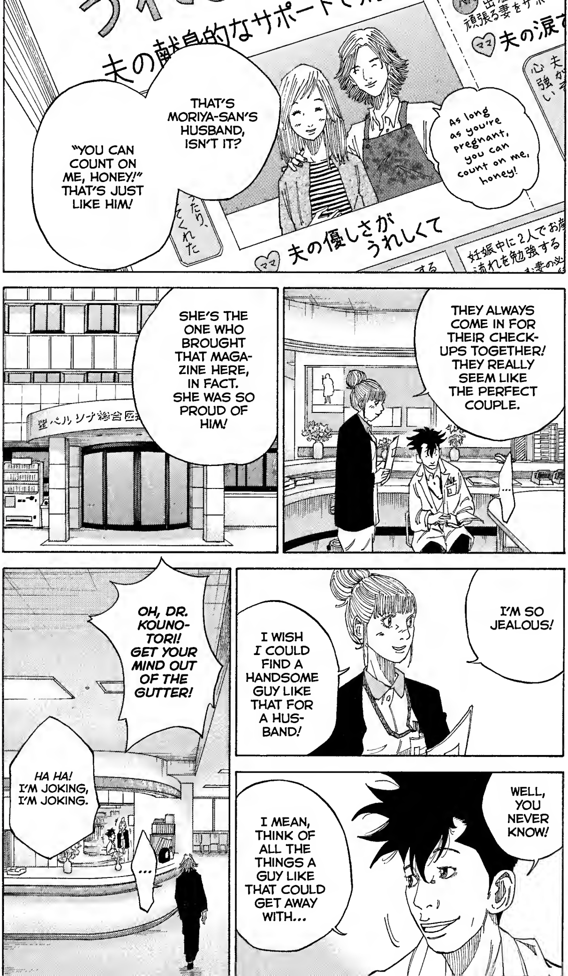
TRACK 3

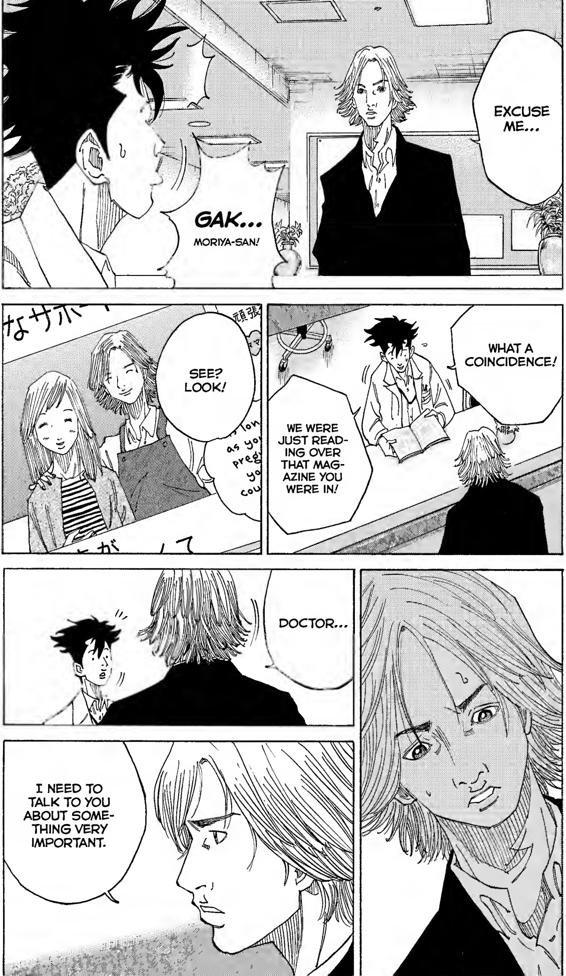
Gonorrhea

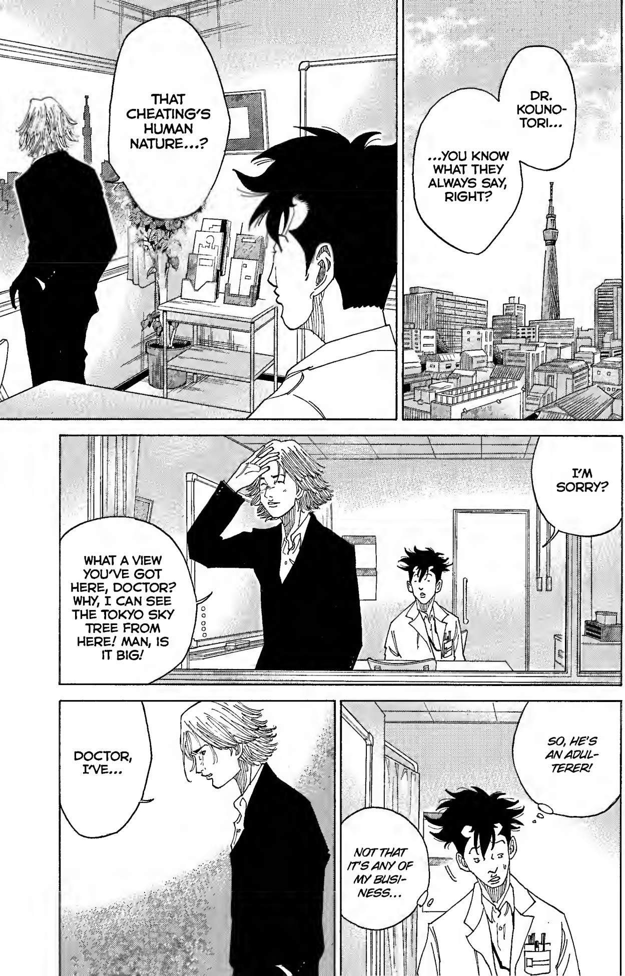

TAKADA UROLOGY CLINIC
WHAT?
I'VE GOT... GONORRHEA?
泌尿器科
高田クリニック
BEEN HAVING A BIT TOO MUCH FUN, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOUR WIFE WILL NEED TO GET HERSELF CHECKED, TOO.
YOU'RE MARRIED, RIGHT?
UM... DOCTOR...
ACTUALLY, MY WIFE IS PREGNANT AT THE MOMENT...
...
OH, MY.

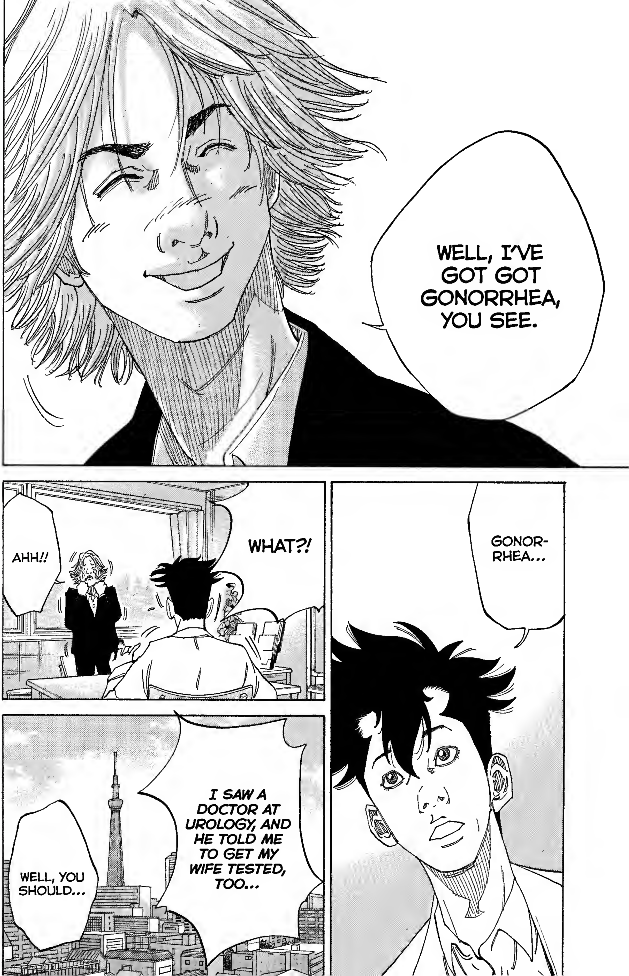

妊娠したら
たまごライフ
たまごライフ☆創刊25周年
6
カップル3組の
立ち会い出産
生リポート
先輩ママが教えてくれた
NG育児グッズ
ランキング30
もし…帝王切開になったら…
知っておきたいコト
PARTY
STYLE
特集
妊娠中から産後に
出ていくお金
里帰り
みんな
落とし穴
抽選で225名様に
妊娠線ケアグッズプレゼント
つわり対策
流・早産予防
体重管理
出産・入院の準備
付録
妊娠2~10カ月でやるべきこと★大百科
2013 No.
妊娠生活大百科
赤ちゃんへ。
新田ヘルスケア
新田グループ
んいらずの
沐浴

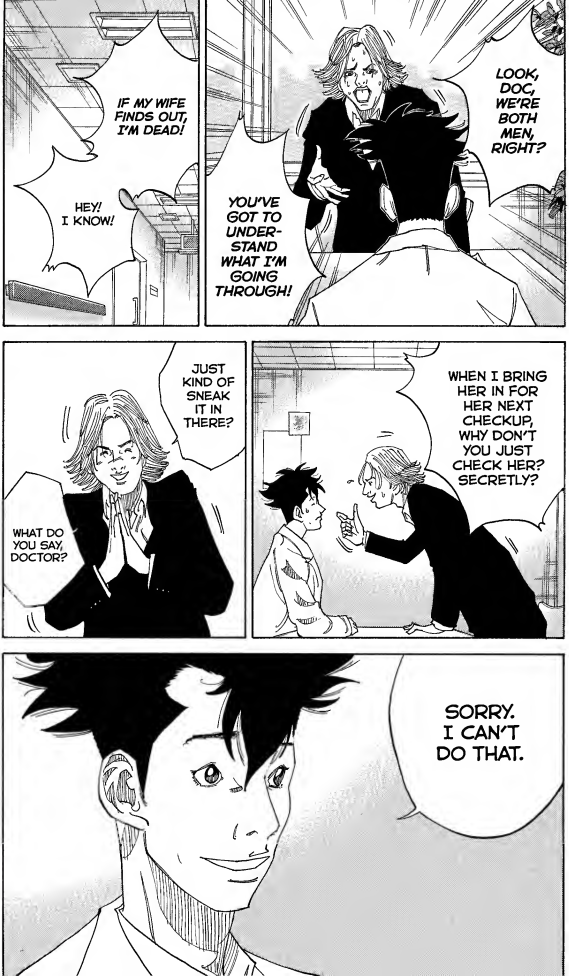
TAMAGO LIFE, A PARODY OF THE POPULAR MONTHLY MATERNITY MAGAZINE *TAMAGO CLUB*

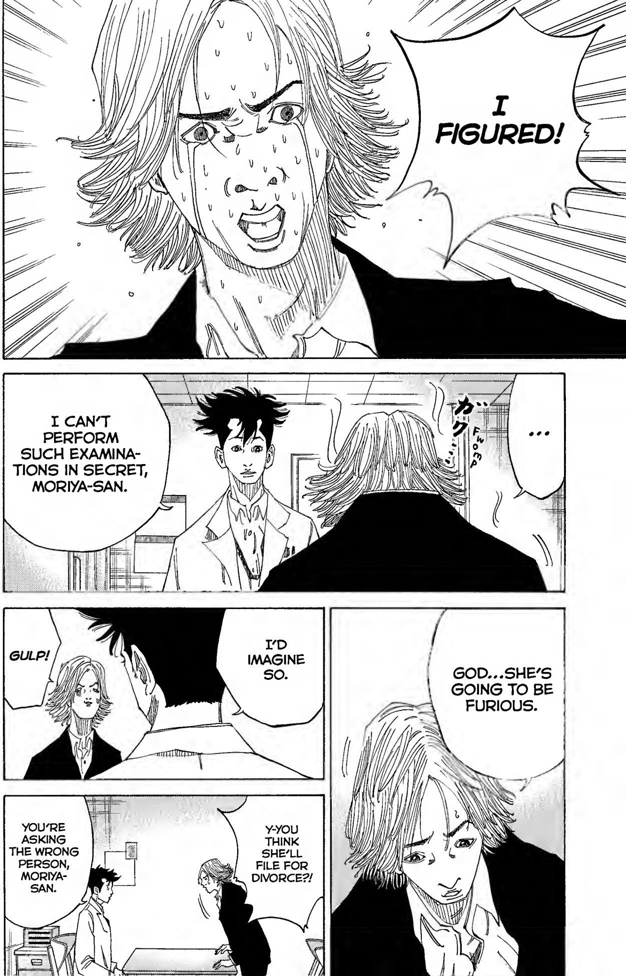

頑張る妻をサポ
夫の涙
夫の献身的なサポートで
As long as you're pregnant, you can count on me, honey!
夫の優しさがうれしくて
妊娠中に2人でお産の流れを勉強する
THAT'S MORIYA-SAN'S HUSBAND, ISN'T IT?
"YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, HONEY!" THAT'S JUST LIKE HIM!
THEY ALWAYS COME IN FOR THEIR CHECK-UPS TOGETHER! THEY REALLY SEEM LIKE THE PERFECT COUPLE.
...
聖ペルソナ総合医
SHE'S THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THAT MAGAZINE HERE, IN FACT. SHE WAS SO PROUD OF HIM!
I'M SO JEALOUS!
I WISH I COULD FIND A HANDSOME GUY LIKE THAT FOR A HUSBAND!
WELL, YOU NEVER KNOW!
I MEAN, THINK OF ALL THE THINGS A GUY LIKE THAT COULD GET AWAY WITH...
OH, DR. KOUNOTORI! GET YOUR MIND OUT OF THE GUTTER!
HA HA! I'M JOKING, I'M JOKING.
...

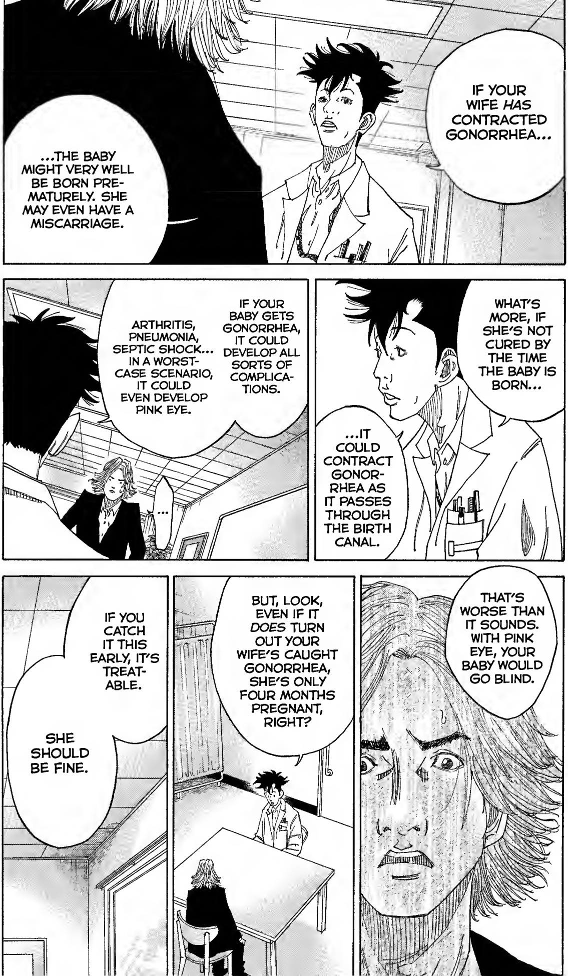

EXCUSE ME...
GAK...
MORIYA-SAN!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
WE WERE JUST READING OVER THAT MAGAZINE YOU WERE IN!
SEE? LOOK!
なサポー
頑張
as lon
as yo
preg
yo
cou
DOCTOR...
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

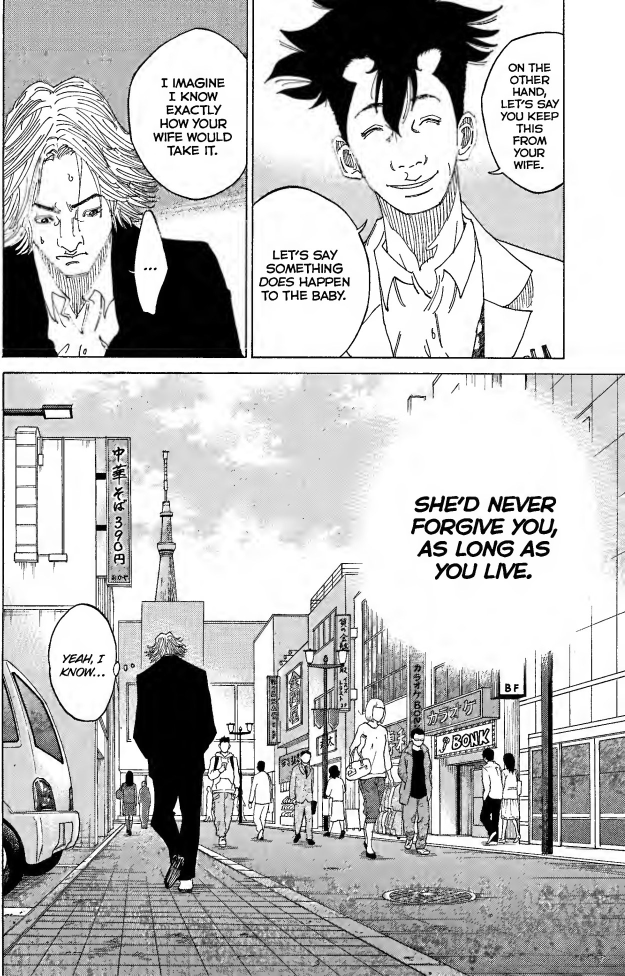

DR. KOUNOTORI...
...YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ALWAYS SAY, RIGHT?
THAT CHEATING'S HUMAN NATURE...?
I'M SORRY?
WHAT A VIEW YOU'VE GOT HERE, DOCTOR? WHY, I CAN SEE THE TOKYO SKY TREE FROM HERE! MAN, IS IT BIG!
SO, HE'S AN ADULTERER!
NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF MY BUSINESS...
DOCTOR, I'VE...

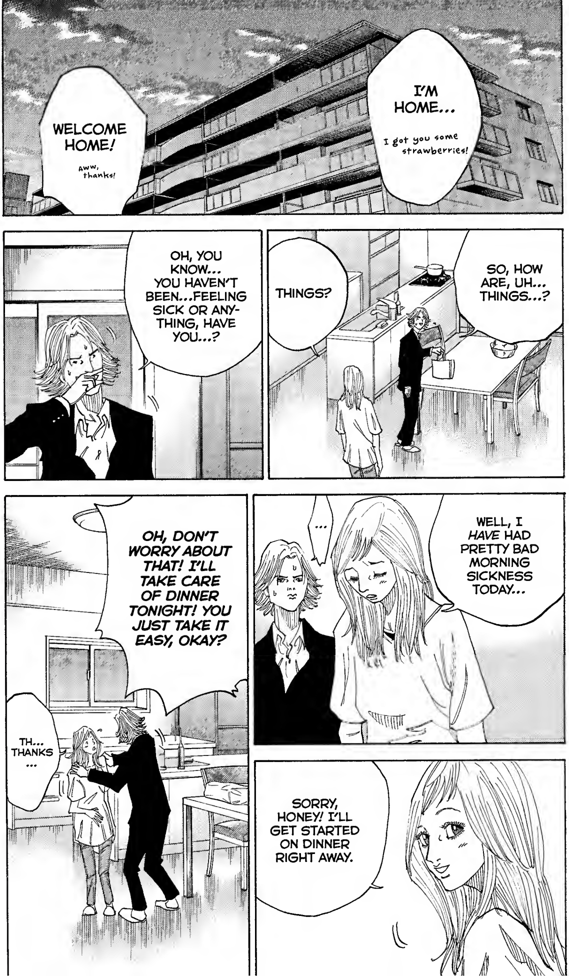

WELL, I'VE GOT GOT GONORRHEA, YOU SEE.
GONORRHEA...
WHAT?!
AHH!!
I SAW A DOCTOR AT UROLOGY, AND HE TOLD ME TO GET MY WIFE TESTED, TOO...
WELL, YOU SHOULD...

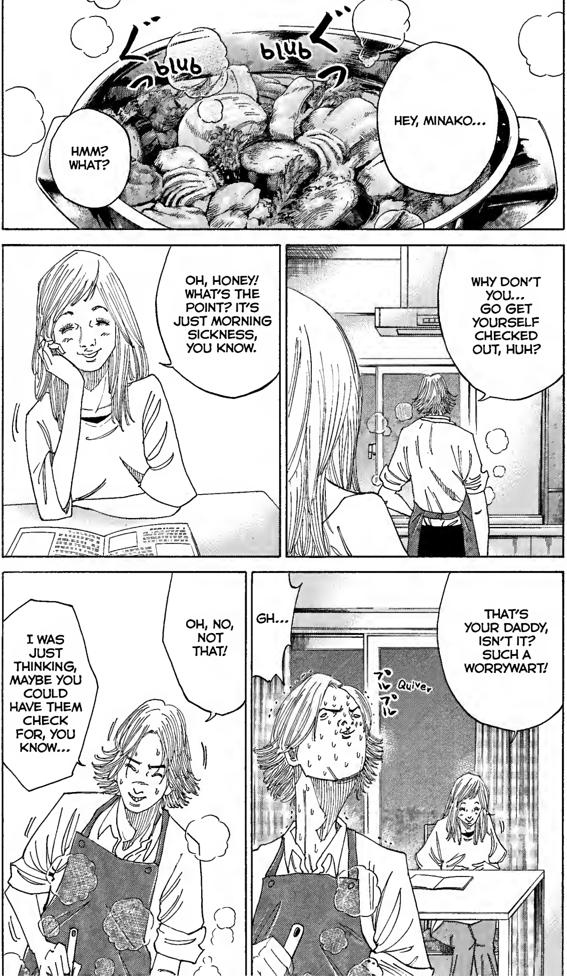

LOOK, DOC, WE'RE BOTH MEN, RIGHT?
YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH!
IF MY WIFE FINDS OUT, I'M DEAD!
HEY! I KNOW!
WHEN I BRING HER IN FOR HER NEXT CHECKUP, WHY DON'T YOU JUST CHECK HER? SECRETLY?
JUST KIND OF SNEAK IT IN THERE?
WHAT DO YOU SAY, DOCTOR?
SORRY. I CAN'T DO THAT.

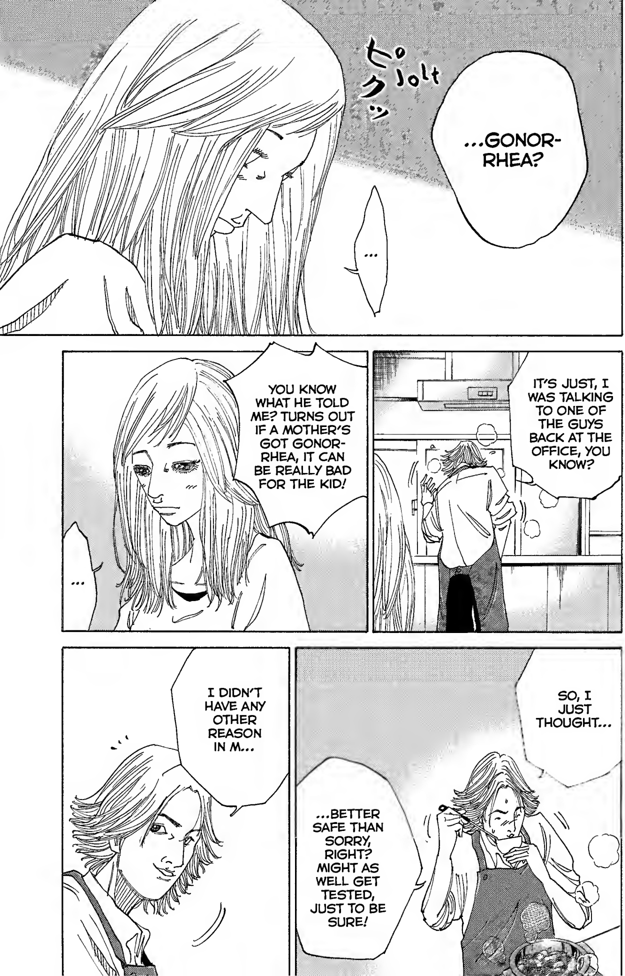

I FIGURED!
...
ガク
FWOMP
I CAN'T PERFORM SUCH EXAMINATIONS IN SECRET, MORIYA-SAN.
GOD...SHE'S GOING TO BE FURIOUS.
I'D IMAGINE SO.
GULP!
Y-YOU THINK SHE'LL FILE FOR DIVORCE?!
YOU'RE ASKING THE WRONG PERSON, MORIYA-SAN.

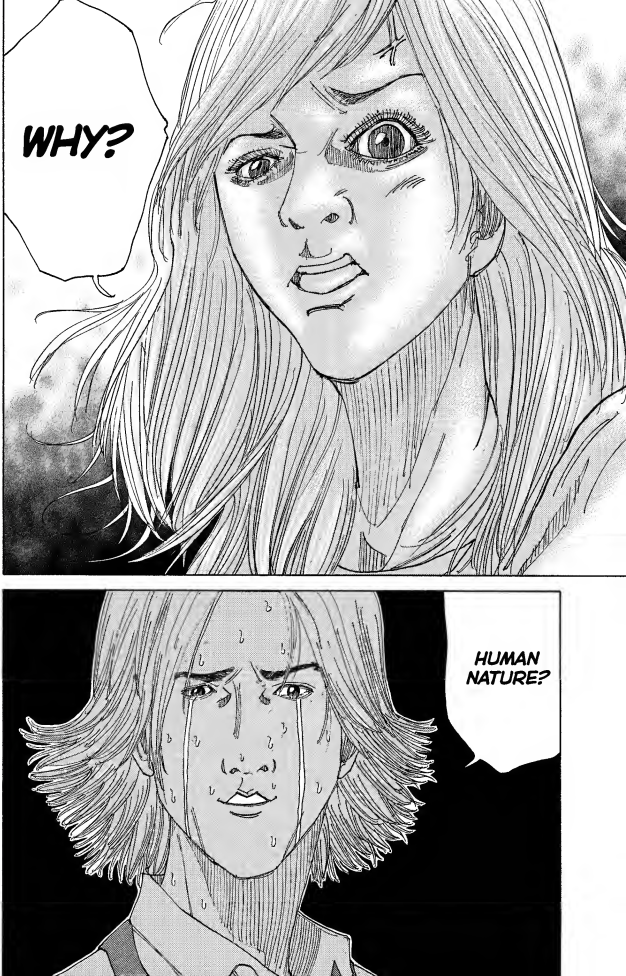

IF YOUR WIFE *HAS* CONTRACTED GONORRHEA...
...THE BABY MIGHT VERY WELL BE BORN PREMATURELY. SHE MAY EVEN HAVE A MISCARRIAGE.
WHAT'S MORE, IF SHE'S NOT CURED BY THE TIME THE BABY IS BORN...
...IT COULD CONTRACT GONORRHEA AS IT PASSES THROUGH THE BIRTH CANAL.
IF YOUR BABY GETS GONORRHEA, IT COULD DEVELOP ALL SORTS OF COMPLICATIONS.
ARTHRITIS, PNEUMONIA, SEPTIC SHOCK... IN A WORST-CASE SCENARIO, IT COULD EVEN DEVELOP PINK EYE.
...
THAT'S WORSE THAN IT SOUNDS. WITH PINK EYE, YOUR BABY WOULD GO BLIND.
BUT, LOOK, EVEN IF IT *DOES* TURN OUT YOUR WIFE'S CAUGHT GONORRHEA, SHE'S ONLY FOUR MONTHS PREGNANT, RIGHT?
IF YOU CATCH IT THIS EARLY, IT'S TREATABLE.
SHE SHOULD BE FINE.

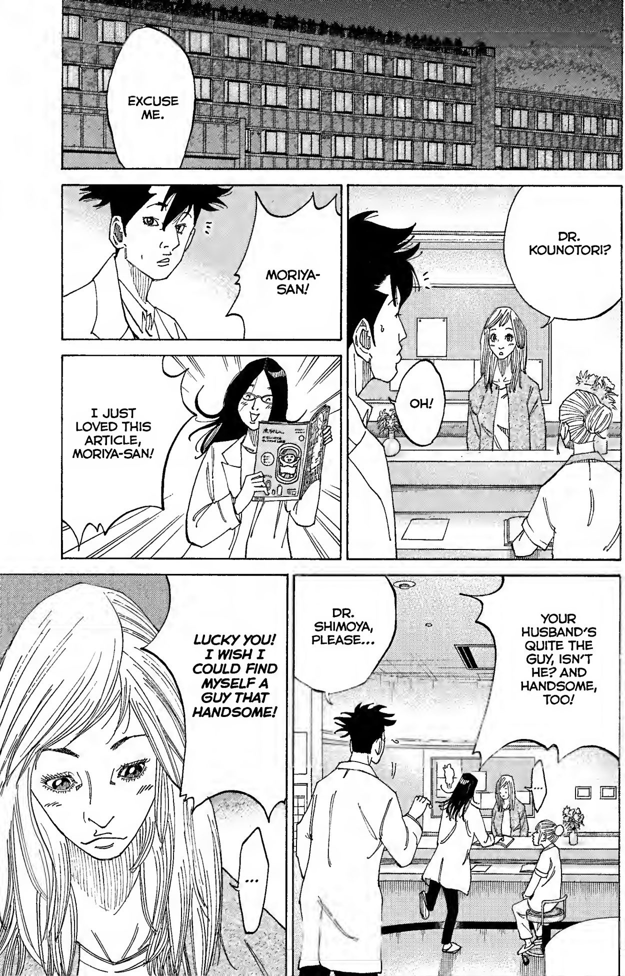

LET'S SAY SOMETHING *DOES* HAPPEN TO THE BABY.
I IMAGINE I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOUR WIFE WOULD TAKE IT.
...
ON THE OTHER HAND, LET'S SAY YOU KEEP THIS FROM YOUR WIFE.
SHE'D NEVER FORGIVE YOU, AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.
YEAH, I KNOW...
中華そば 390円
カラオケ
BONK
BF

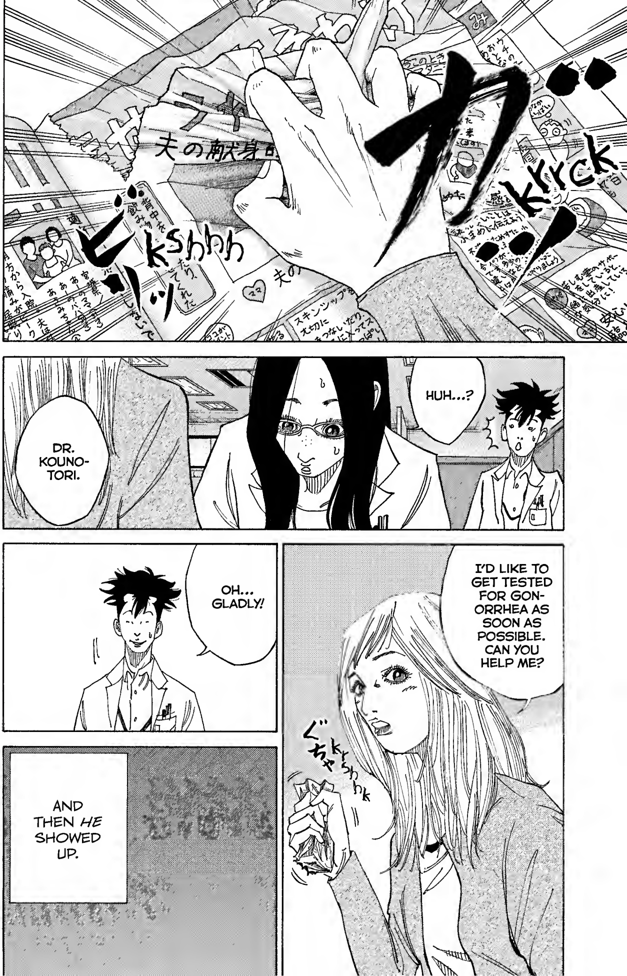

I'M HOME... I got you some strawberries!
WELCOME HOME! Aww, thanks!
SO, HOW ARE, UH... THINGS...?
THINGS?
OH, YOU KNOW... YOU HAVEN'T BEEN...FEELING SICK OR ANYTHING, HAVE YOU...?
WELL, I *HAVE* HAD PRETTY BAD MORNING SICKNESS TODAY...
...
SORRY, HONEY! I'LL GET STARTED ON DINNER RIGHT AWAY.
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF DINNER TONIGHT! YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY, OKAY?
TH... THANKS ...

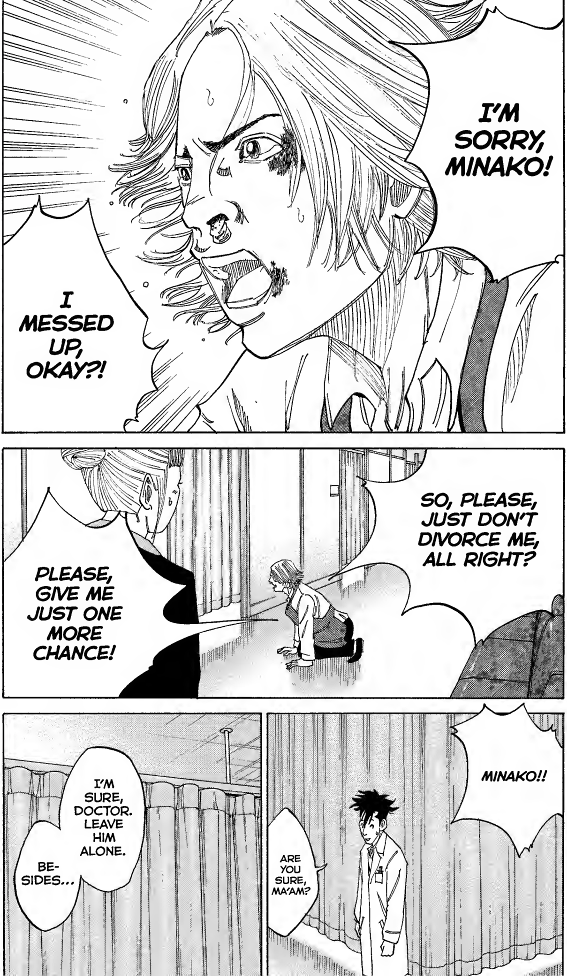

blub
blub
HEY, MINAKO...
HMM? WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU... GO GET YOURSELF CHECKED OUT, HUH?
OH, HONEY! WHAT'S THE POINT? IT'S JUST MORNING SICKNESS, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S YOUR DADDY, ISN'T IT? SUCH A WORRYWART!
GH...
Quiver
OH, NO, NOT THAT!
I WAS JUST THINKING, MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE THEM CHECK FOR, YOU KNOW...

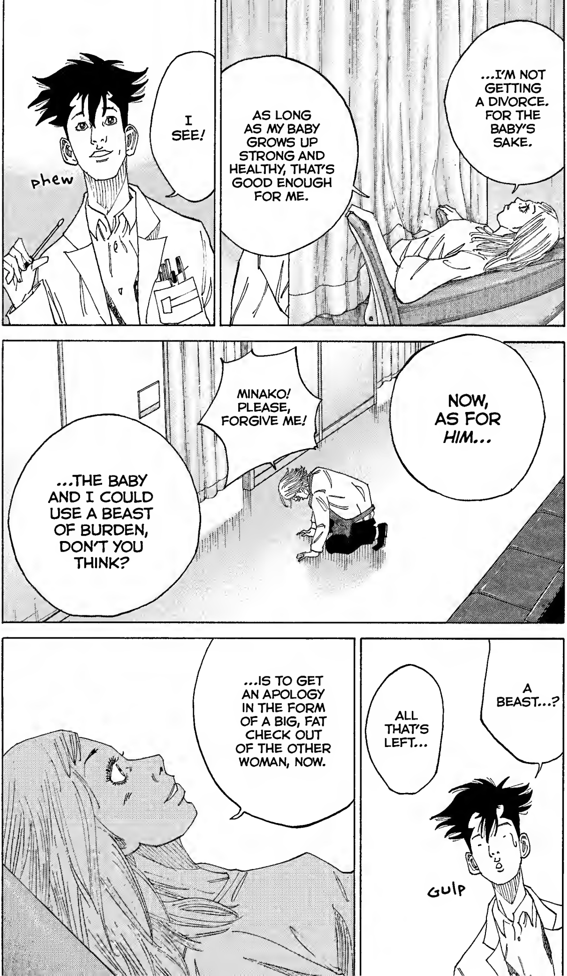

...GONORRHEA?
ピクッ Jolt
...
IT'S JUST, I WAS TALKING TO ONE OF THE GUYS BACK AT THE OFFICE, YOU KNOW?
YOU KNOW WHAT HE TOLD ME? TURNS OUT IF A MOTHER'S GOT GONORRHEA, IT CAN BE REALLY BAD FOR THE KID!
...
SO, I JUST THOUGHT...
...BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, RIGHT? MIGHT AS WELL GET TESTED, JUST TO BE SURE!
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY OTHER REASON IN M...

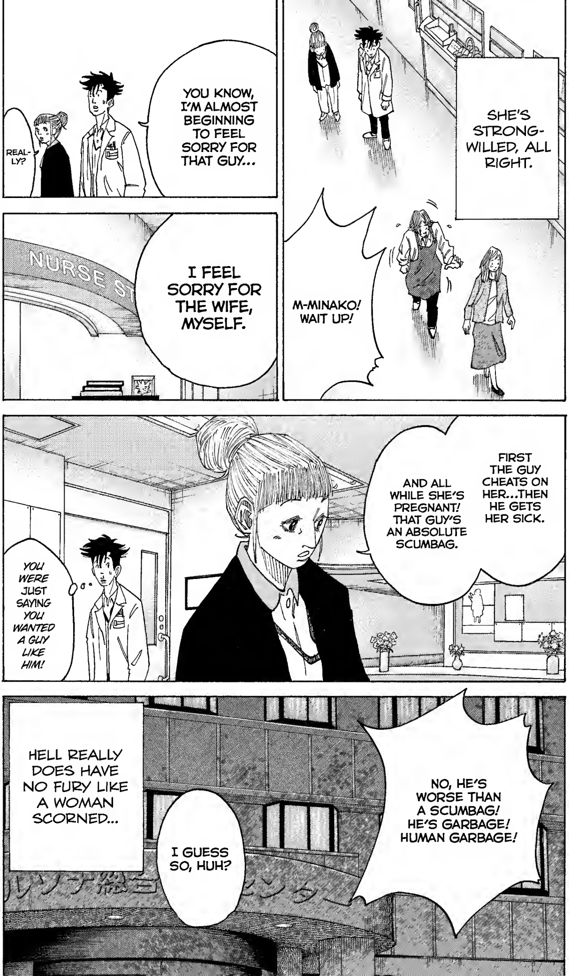

WHY?
HUMAN NATURE?

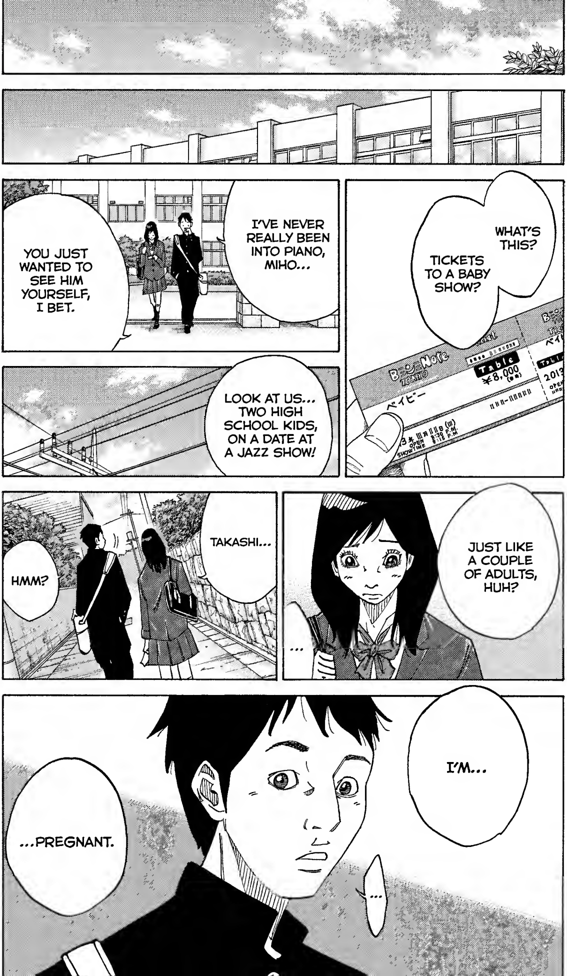

EXCUSE ME.
DR. KOUNOTORI?
OH!
MORIYA-SAN!
I JUST LOVED THIS ARTICLE, MORIYA-SAN!
YOUR HUSBAND'S QUITE THE GUY, ISN'T HE? AND HANDSOME, TOO!
DR. SHIMOYA, PLEASE...
...
LUCKY YOU! I WISH I COULD FIND MYSELF A GUY THAT HANDSOME!
...


ガッ
krrck
ビリッ
kshhhh
HUH...?
DR. KOUNOTORI.
I'D LIKE TO GET TESTED FOR GONORRHEA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CAN YOU HELP ME?
ぐちゃ
krshhnk
OH... GLADLY!
AND THEN *HE* SHOWED UP.


I'M SORRY, MINAKO!
I MESSED UP, OKAY?!
SO, PLEASE, JUST DON'T DIVORCE ME, ALL RIGHT?
PLEASE, GIVE ME JUST ONE MORE CHANCE!
MINAKO!!
ARE YOU SURE, MA'AM?
I'M SURE, DOCTOR. LEAVE HIM ALONE.
BESIDES...

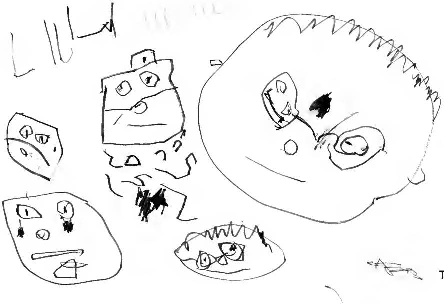

...I'M NOT GETTING A DIVORCE. FOR THE BABY'S SAKE.
AS LONG AS MY BABY GROWS UP STRONG AND HEALTHY, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
I SEE!
phew
NOW, AS FOR *HIM*...
MINAKO! PLEASE, FORGIVE ME!
...THE BABY AND I COULD USE A BEAST OF BURDEN, DON'T YOU THINK?
A BEAST...?
ALL THAT'S LEFT...
Gulp
...IS TO GET AN APOLOGY IN THE FORM OF A BIG, FAT CHECK OUT OF THE OTHER WOMAN, NOW.


SHE'S STRONG-WILLED, ALL RIGHT.
M-MINAKO! WAIT UP!
YOU KNOW, I'M ALMOST BEGINNING TO FEEL SORRY FOR THAT GUY...
REALLY?
NURSE ST
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE WIFE, MYSELF.
FIRST THE GUY CHEATS ON HER...THEN HE GETS HER SICK.
AND ALL WHILE SHE'S PREGNANT! THAT GUY'S AN ABSOLUTE SCUMBAG.
YOU WERE JUST SAYING YOU WANTED A GUY LIKE HIM!
NO, HE'S WORSE THAN A SCUMBAG! HE'S GARBAGE! HUMAN GARBAGE!
I GUESS SO, HUH?
HELL REALLY DOES HAVE NO FURY LIKE A WOMAN SCORNED...


WHAT'S THIS?
TICKETS TO A BABY SHOW?
TOKYO
Table
¥8,000
ベイビー
OPEN 8:30 P.M.
SHOWTIME 9:15 P.M.
I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN INTO PIANO, MIHO...
YOU JUST WANTED TO SEE HIM YOURSELF, I BET.
LOOK AT US... TWO HIGH SCHOOL KIDS, ON A DATE AT A JAZZ SHOW!
JUST LIKE A COUPLE OF ADULTS, HUH?
...
TAKASHI...
HMM?
I'M...
...PREGNANT.
...

GONORRHEA / END

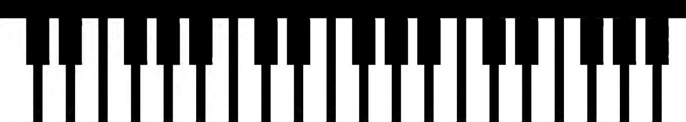
My boy drew some
Kinnikuman characters!
The biggest one is Nakano.

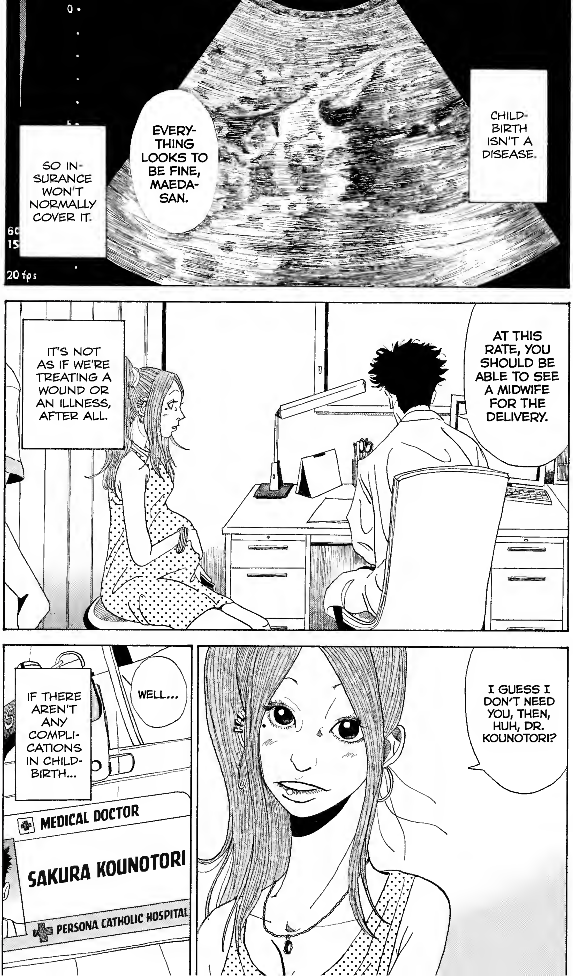


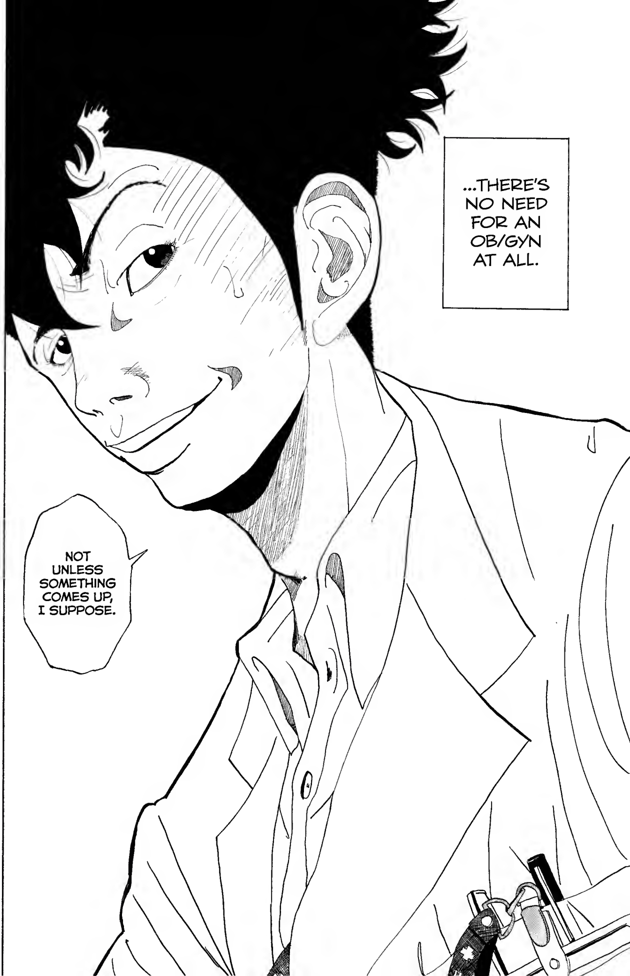
Tenta, age 4

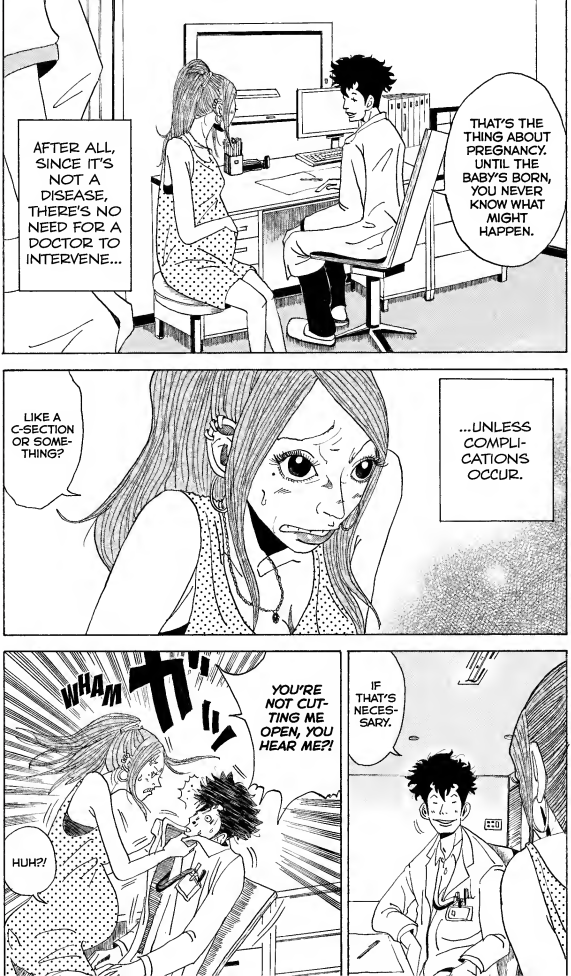
BONUS TRACK

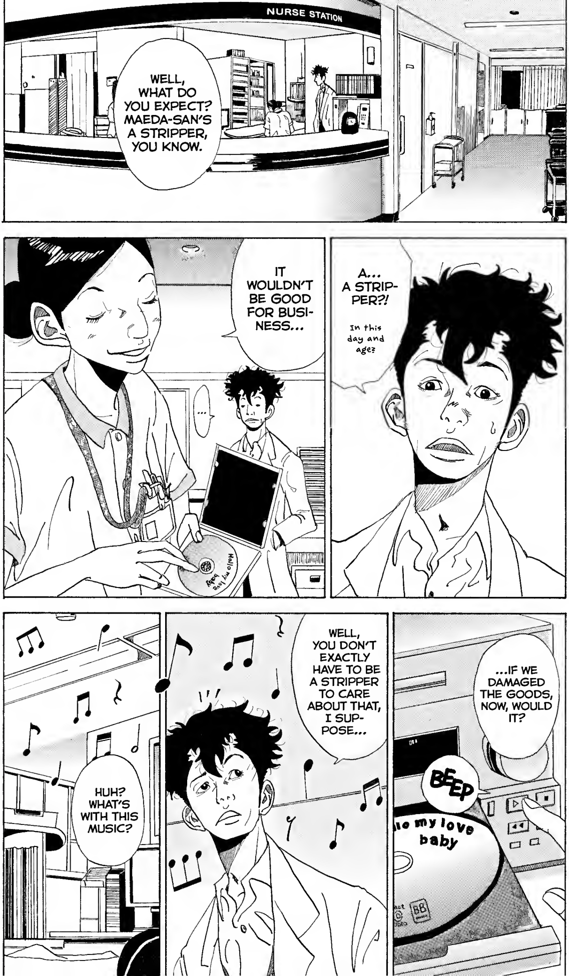
On Call

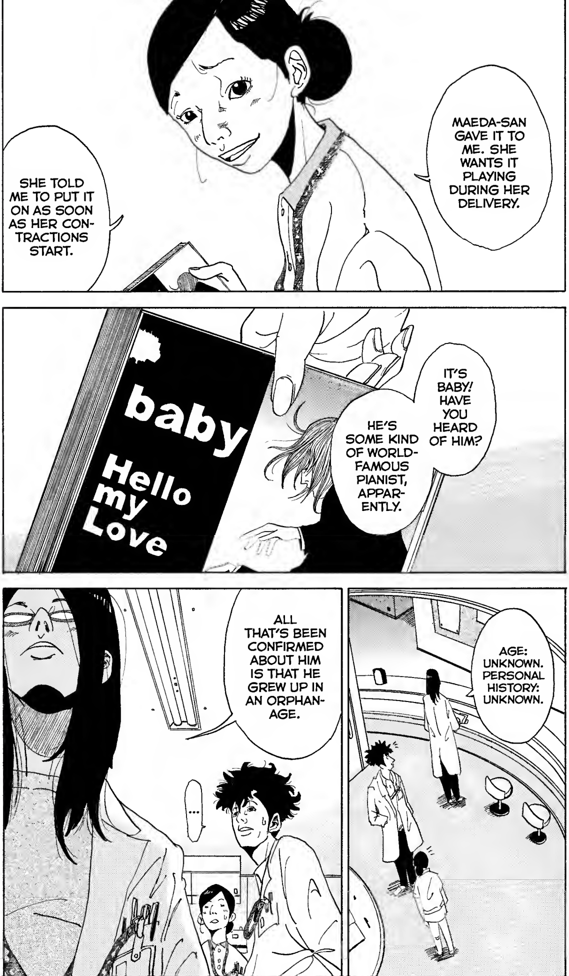


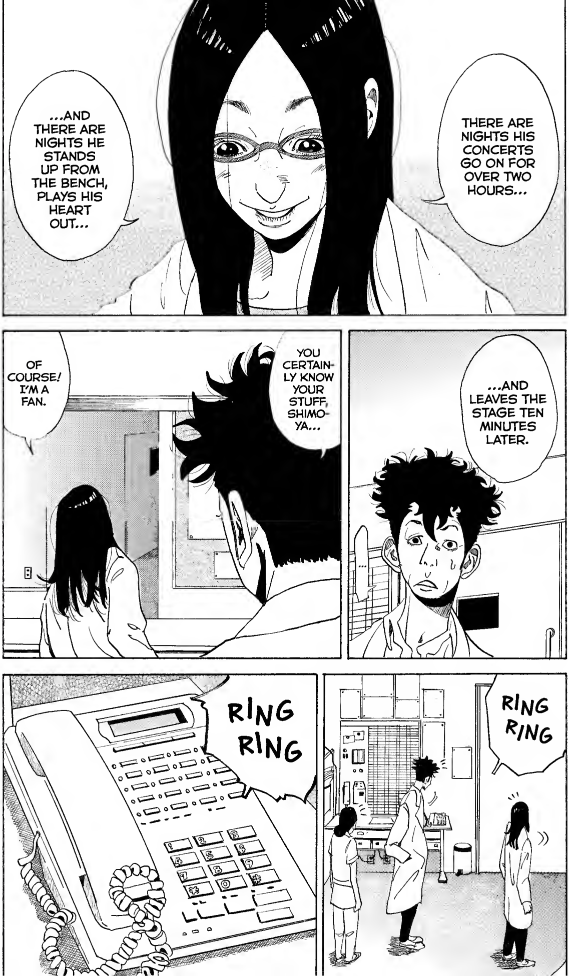

20 fps
CHILDBIRTH ISN'T A DISEASE.
EVERYTHING LOOKS TO BE FINE, MAEDA-SAN.
SO INSURANCE WON'T NORMALLY COVER IT.
AT THIS RATE, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE A MIDWIFE FOR THE DELIVERY.
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE TREATING A WOUND OR AN ILLNESS, AFTER ALL.
I GUESS I DON'T NEED YOU, THEN, HUH, DR. KOUNOTORI?
WELL...
IF THERE AREN'T ANY COMPLICATIONS IN CHILDBIRTH...
MEDICAL DOCTOR
SAKURA KOUNOTORI
PERSONA CATHOLIC HOSPITAL

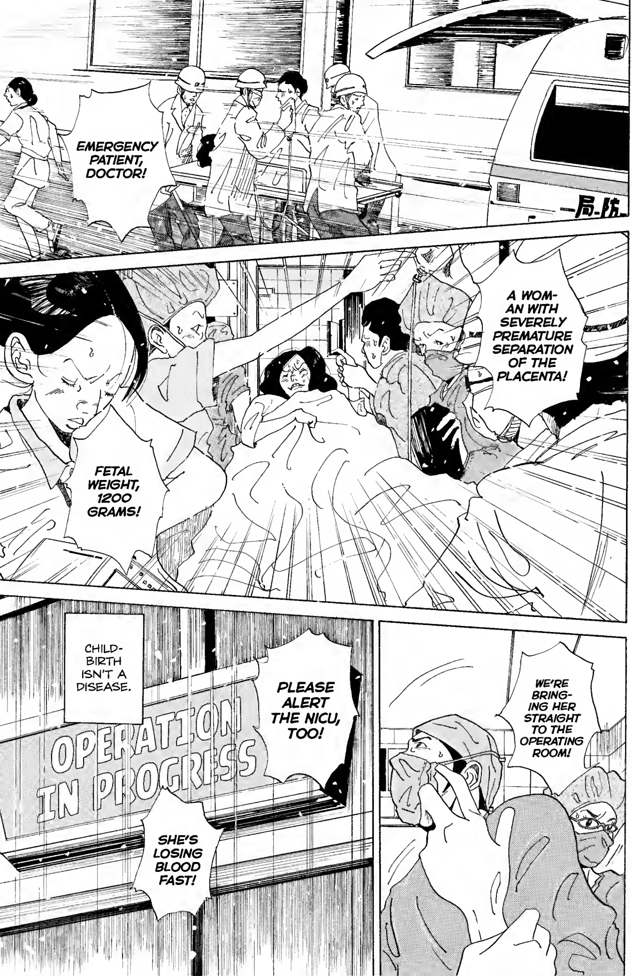

...THERE'S NO NEED FOR AN OB/GYN AT ALL.
NOT UNLESS SOMETHING COMES UP, I SUPPOSE.

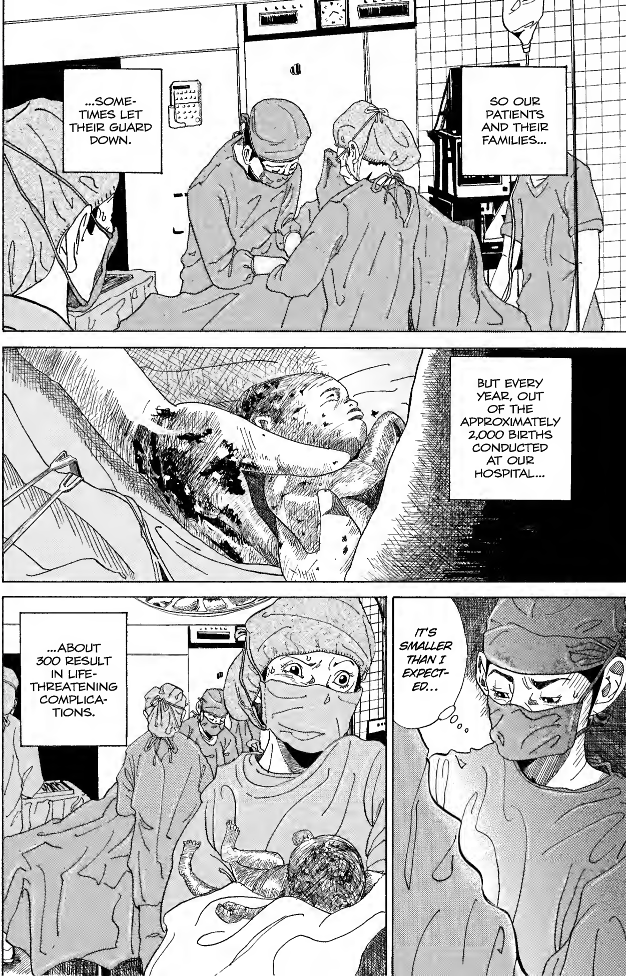

THAT'S THE THING ABOUT PREGNANCY. UNTIL THE BABY'S BORN, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
AFTER ALL, SINCE IT'S NOT A DISEASE, THERE'S NO NEED FOR A DOCTOR TO INTERVENE...
...UNLESS COMPLICATIONS OCCUR.
LIKE A C-SECTION OR SOMETHING?
IF THAT'S NECESSARY.
ガッ
WHAM
YOU'RE NOT CUTTING ME OPEN, YOU HEAR ME?!
HUH?!

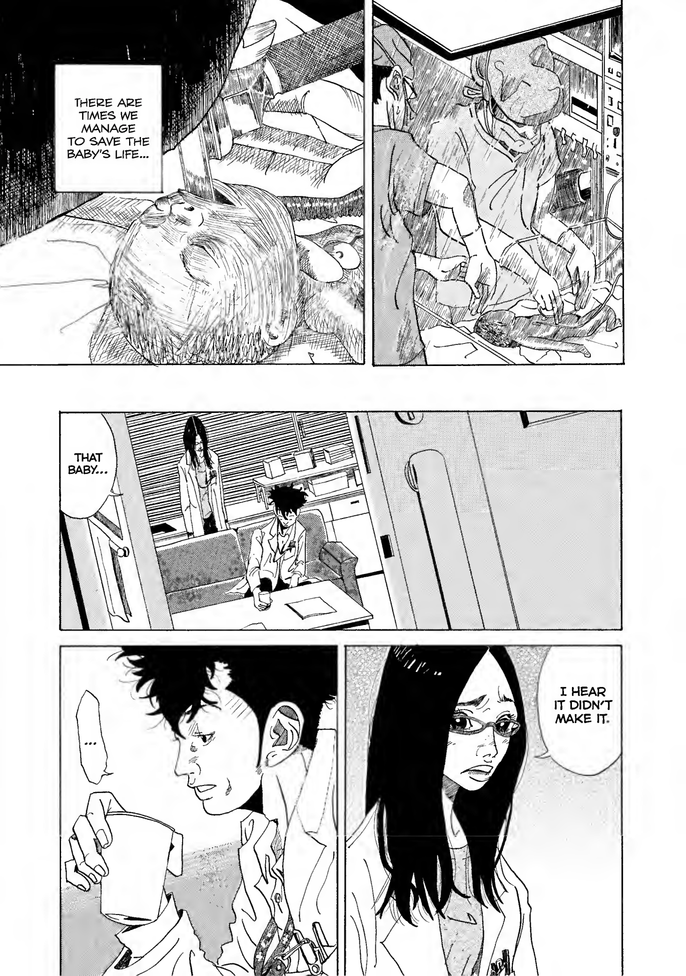

NURSE STATION
WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? MAEDA-SAN'S A STRIPPER, YOU KNOW.
IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS...
...
Hello my love baby
A... A STRIPPER?!
In this day and age?
HUH? WHAT'S WITH THIS MUSIC?
WELL, YOU DON'T EXACTLY HAVE TO BE A STRIPPER TO CARE ABOUT THAT, I SUPPOSE...
...IF WE DAMAGED THE GOODS, NOW, WOULD IT?
BEEP
llo my love baby

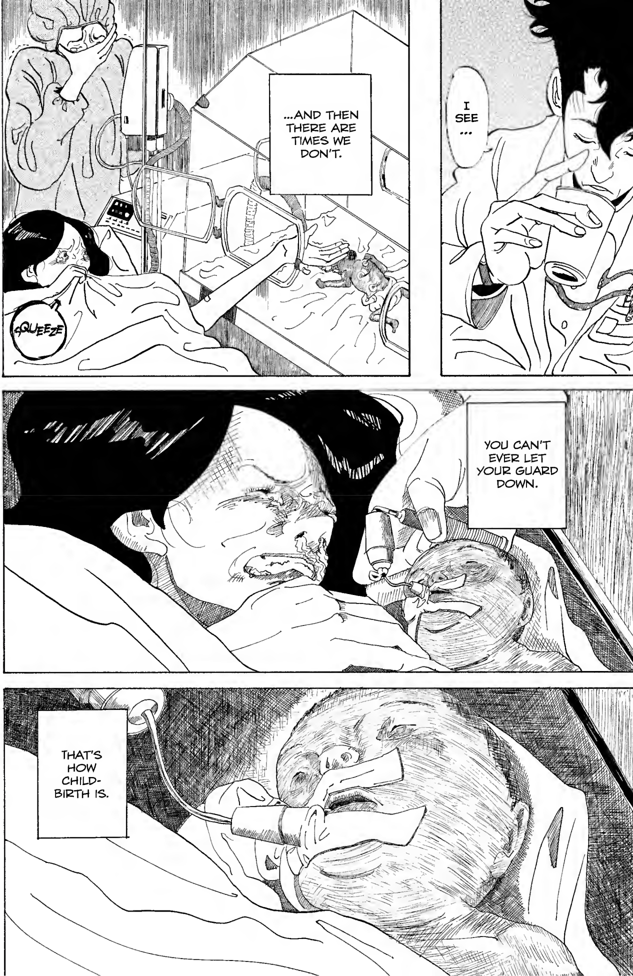

MAEDA-SAN GAVE IT TO ME. SHE WANTS IT PLAYING DURING HER DELIVERY.
SHE TOLD ME TO PUT IT ON AS SOON AS HER CONTRACTIONS START.
baby Hello my Love
IT'S BABY! HAVE YOU HEARD OF HIM?
HE'S SOME KIND OF WORLD-FAMOUS PIANIST, APPARENTLY.
AGE: UNKNOWN. PERSONAL HISTORY: UNKNOWN.
ALL THAT'S BEEN CONFIRMED ABOUT HIM IS THAT HE GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE.
...

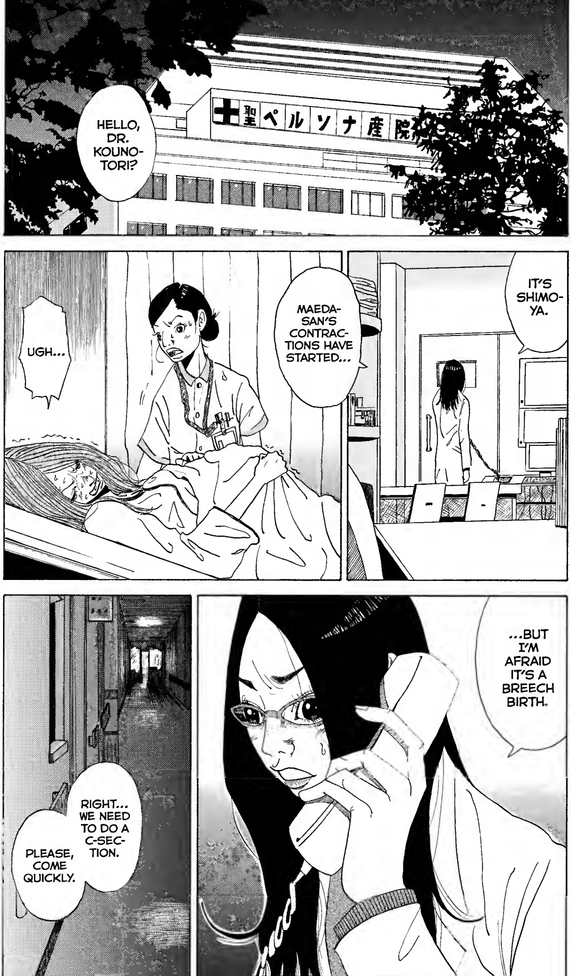

THERE ARE NIGHTS HIS CONCERTS GO ON FOR OVER TWO HOURS...
...AND THERE ARE NIGHTS HE STANDS UP FROM THE BENCH, PLAYS HIS HEART OUT...
...AND LEAVES THE STAGE TEN MINUTES LATER.
...
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW YOUR STUFF, SHIMOYA...
OF COURSE! I'M A FAN.
RING RING
RING RING

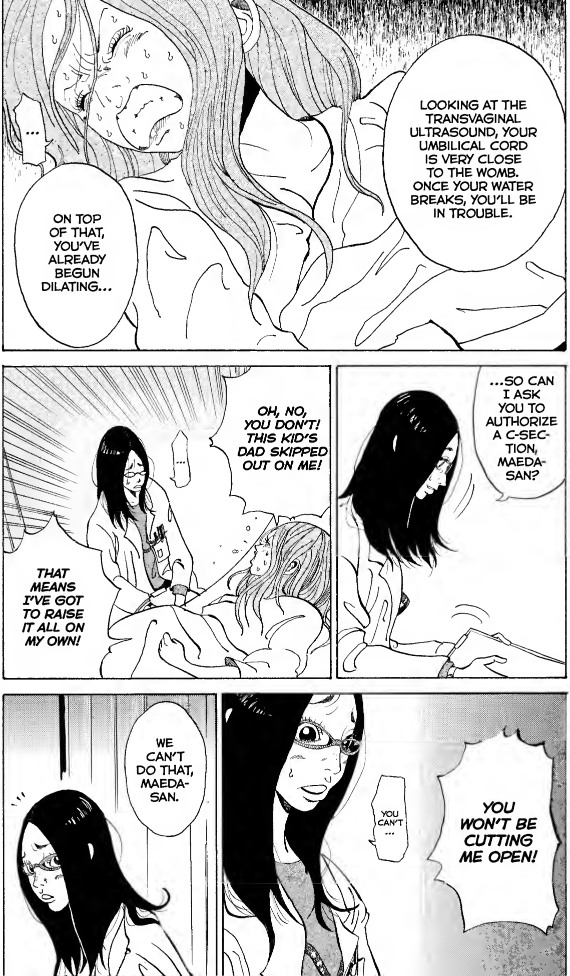

局防
EMERGENCY PATIENT, DOCTOR!
A WOMAN WITH SEVERELY PREMATURE SEPARATION OF THE PLACENTA!
FETAL WEIGHT, 1200 GRAMS!
WE'RE BRINGING HER STRAIGHT TO THE OPERATING ROOM!
PLEASE ALERT THE NICU, TOO!
CHILDBIRTH ISN'T A DISEASE.
OPERATION IN PROGRESS
SHE'S LOSING BLOOD FAST!

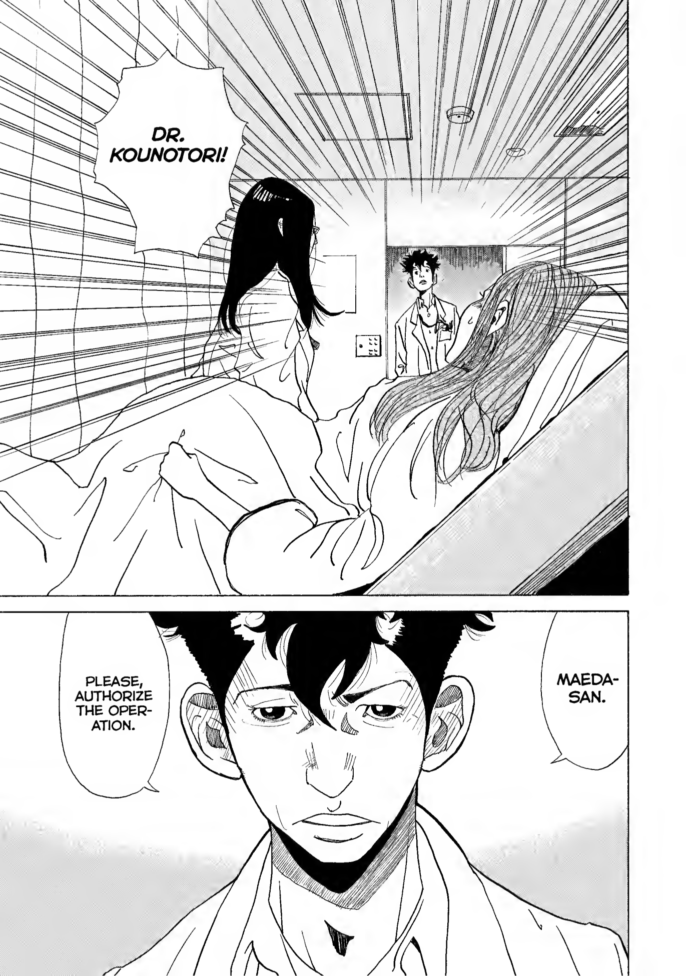

SO OUR PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES...
...SOMETIMES LET THEIR GUARD DOWN.
BUT EVERY YEAR, OUT OF THE APPROXIMATELY 2,000 BIRTHS CONDUCTED AT OUR HOSPITAL...
IT'S SMALLER THAN I EXPECTED...
...ABOUT 300 RESULT IN LIFE-THREATENING COMPLICATIONS.

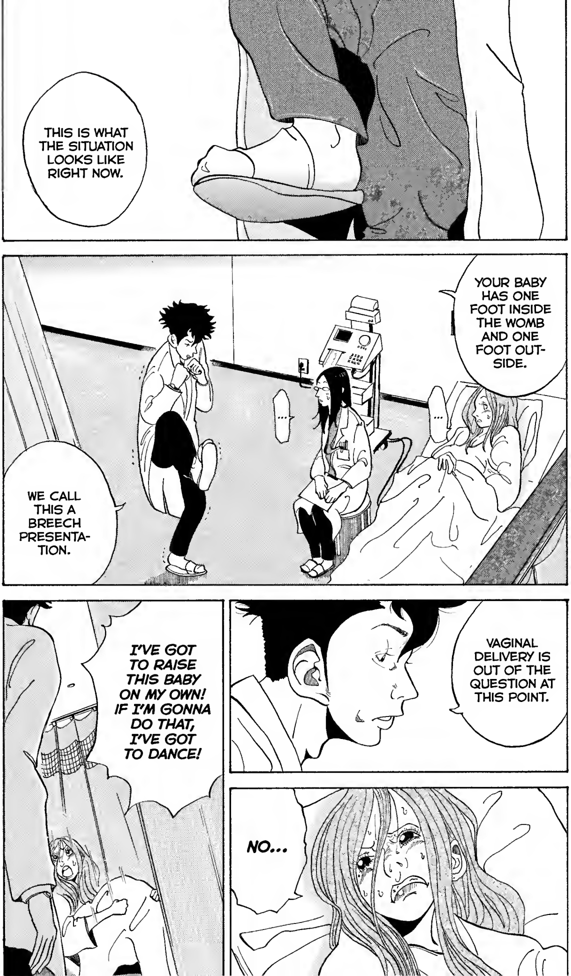

THERE ARE TIMES WE MANAGE TO SAVE THE BABY'S LIFE...
THAT BABY...
I HEAR IT DIDN'T MAKE IT.
...

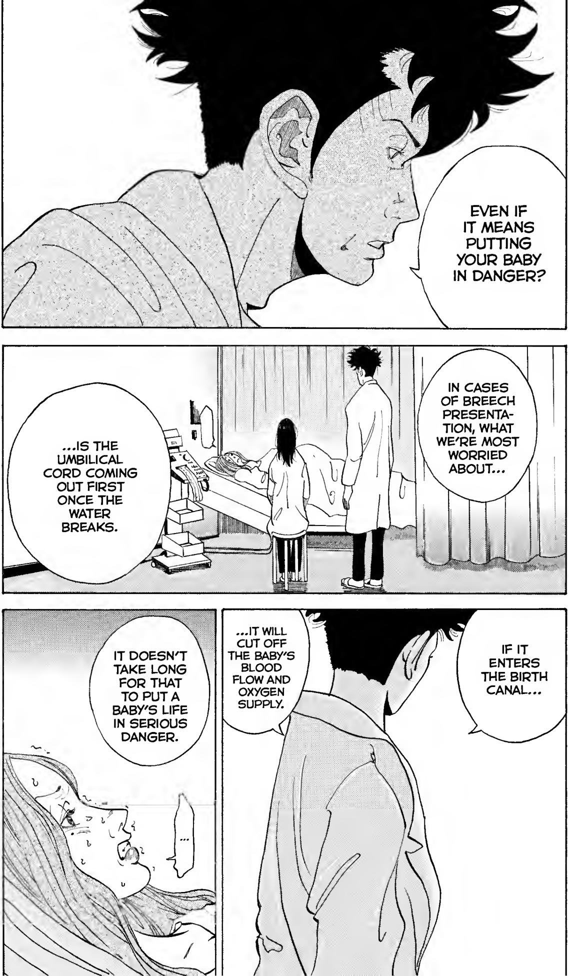

...AND THEN THERE ARE TIMES WE DON'T.
SQUEEZE
I SEE...
YOU CAN'T EVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
THAT'S HOW CHILDBIRTH IS.

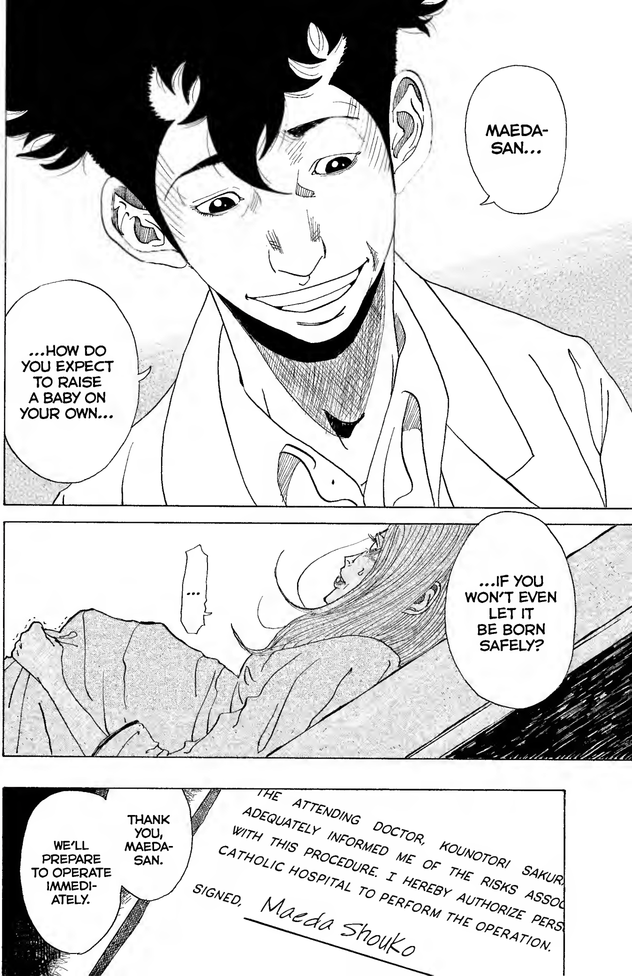

聖ペルソナ産院
HELLO, DR. KOUNOTORI?
IT'S SHIMOYA.
MAEDA-SAN'S CONTRACTIONS HAVE STARTED...
UGH...
...BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S A BREECH BIRTH.
RIGHT... WE NEED TO DO A C-SECTION.
PLEASE, COME QUICKLY.

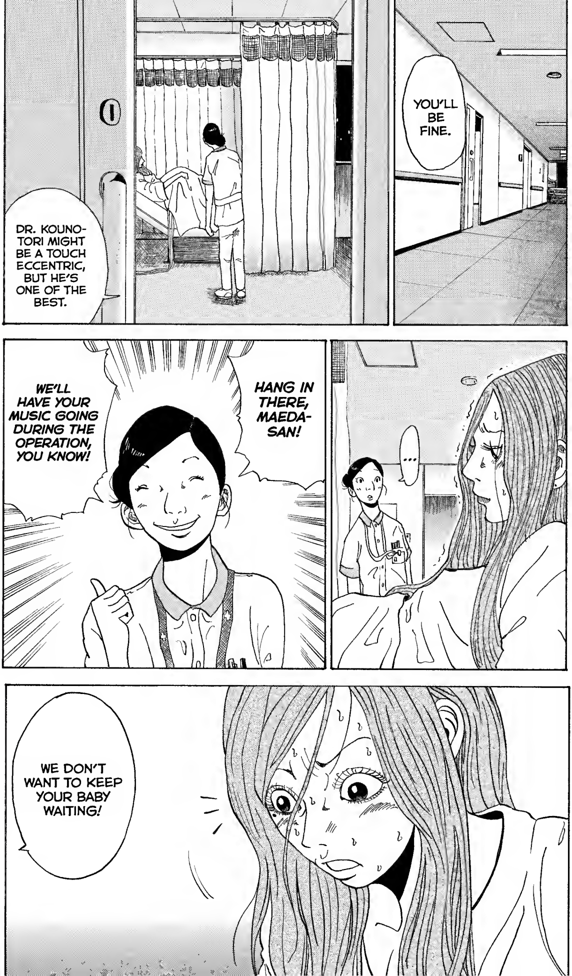

LOOKING AT THE TRANSVAGINAL ULTRASOUND, YOUR UMBILICAL CORD IS VERY CLOSE TO THE WOMB. ONCE YOUR WATER BREAKS, YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE.
...
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'VE ALREADY BEGUN DILATING...
...SO CAN I ASK YOU TO AUTHORIZE A C-SECTION, MAEDA-SAN?
OH, NO, YOU DON'T! THIS KID'S DAD SKIPPED OUT ON ME!
...
THAT MEANS I'VE GOT TO RAISE IT ALL ON MY OWN!
YOU WON'T BE CUTTING ME OPEN!
YOU CAN'T ...
WE CAN'T DO THAT, MAEDA-SAN.

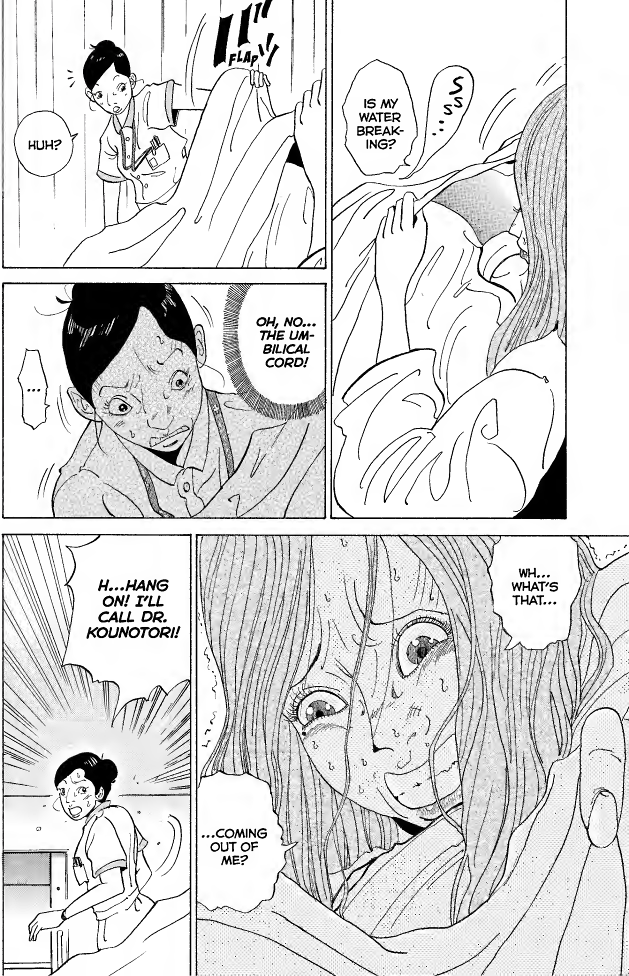

DR. KOUNOTORI!
MAEDA-SAN.
PLEASE, AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION.

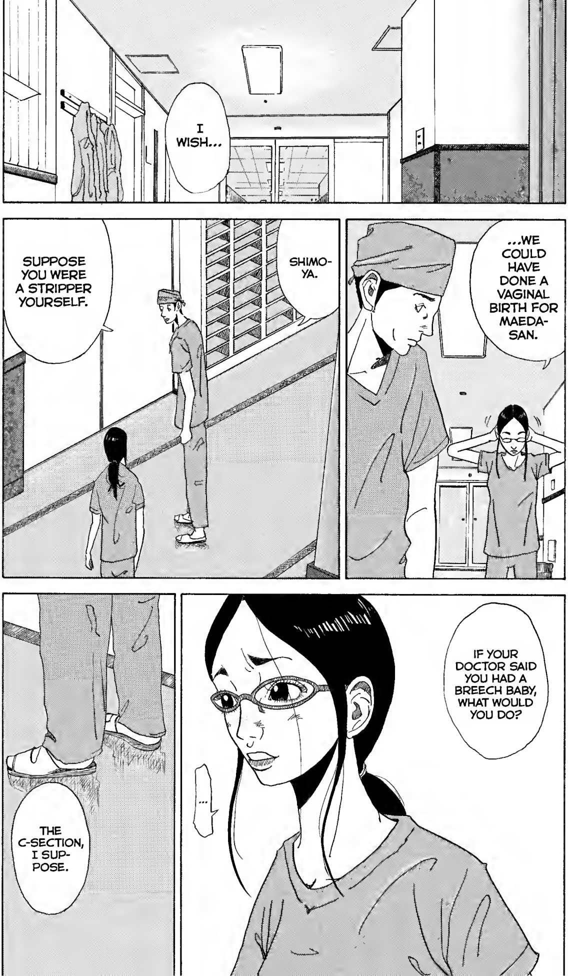

THIS IS WHAT THE SITUATION LOOKS LIKE RIGHT NOW.
YOUR BABY HAS ONE FOOT INSIDE THE WOMB AND ONE FOOT OUTSIDE.
...
...
WE CALL THIS A BREECH PRESENTATION.
VAGINAL DELIVERY IS OUT OF THE QUESTION AT THIS POINT.
NO...
I'VE GOT TO RAISE THIS BABY ON MY OWN! IF I'M GONNA DO THAT, I'VE GOT TO DANCE!

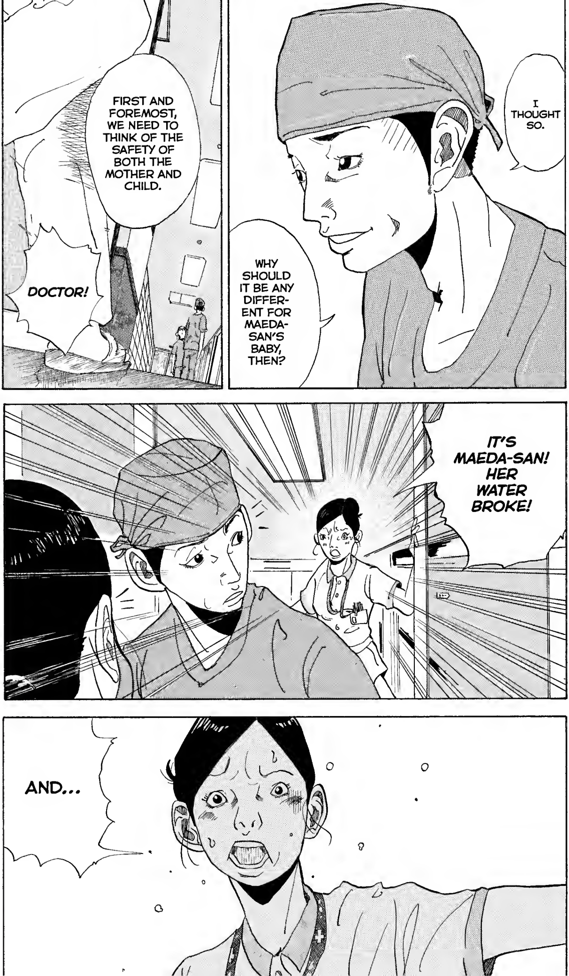

EVEN IF IT MEANS PUTTING YOUR BABY IN DANGER?
IN CASES OF BREECH PRESENTATION, WHAT WE'RE MOST WORRIED ABOUT...
...IS THE UMBILICAL CORD COMING OUT FIRST ONCE THE WATER BREAKS.
IF IT ENTERS THE BIRTH CANAL...
...IT WILL CUT OFF THE BABY'S BLOOD FLOW AND OXYGEN SUPPLY.
IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG FOR THAT TO PUT A BABY'S LIFE IN SERIOUS DANGER.
...

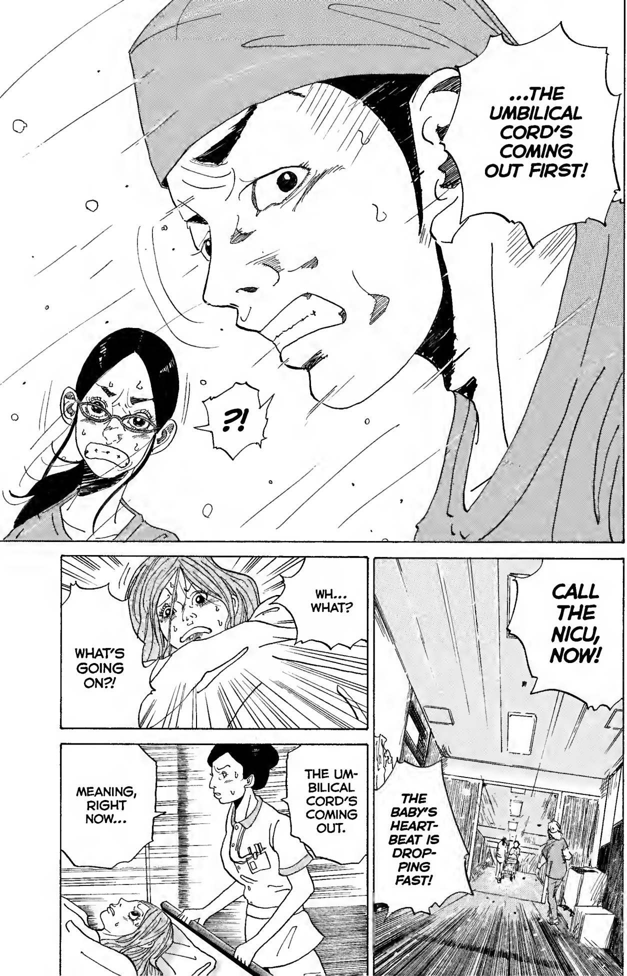

MAEDA-SAN...
...HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO RAISE A BABY ON YOUR OWN...
...IF YOU WON'T EVEN LET IT BE BORN SAFELY?
...
THE ATTENDING DOCTOR, KOUNOTORI SAKUR
ADEQUATELY INFORMED ME OF THE RISKS ASSO
WITH THIS PROCEDURE. I HEREBY AUTHORIZE PERS
CATHOLIC HOSPITAL TO PERFORM THE OPERATION.
SIGNED, Maeda Shouko
THANK YOU, MAEDA-SAN.
WE'LL PREPARE TO OPERATE IMMEDIATELY.

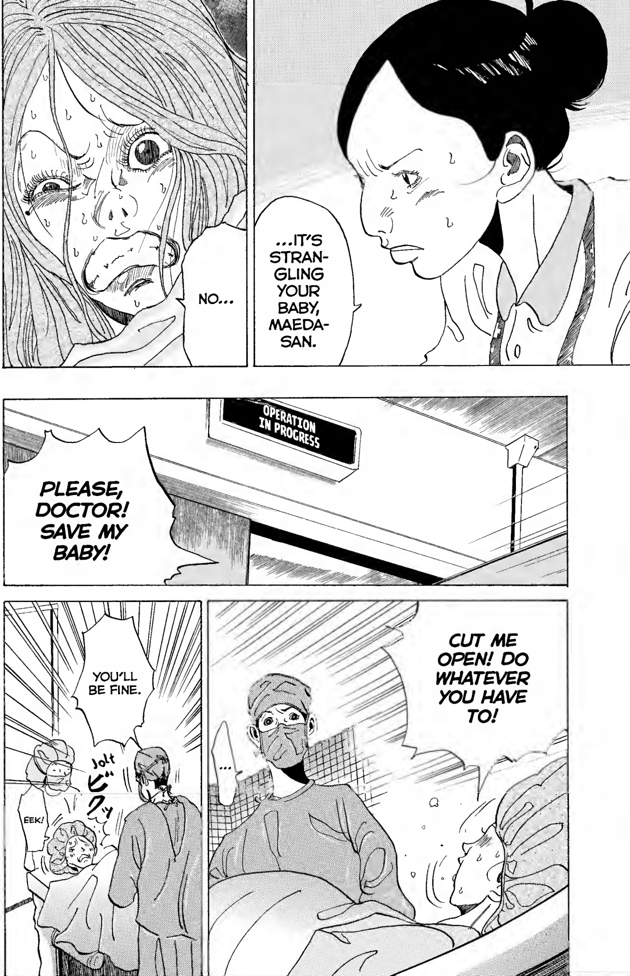

YOU'LL BE FINE.
DR. KOUNOTORI MIGHT BE A TOUCH ECCENTRIC, BUT HE'S ONE OF THE BEST.
...
HANG IN THERE, MAEDA-SAN!
WE'LL HAVE YOUR MUSIC GOING DURING THE OPERATION, YOU KNOW!
WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP YOUR BABY WAITING!

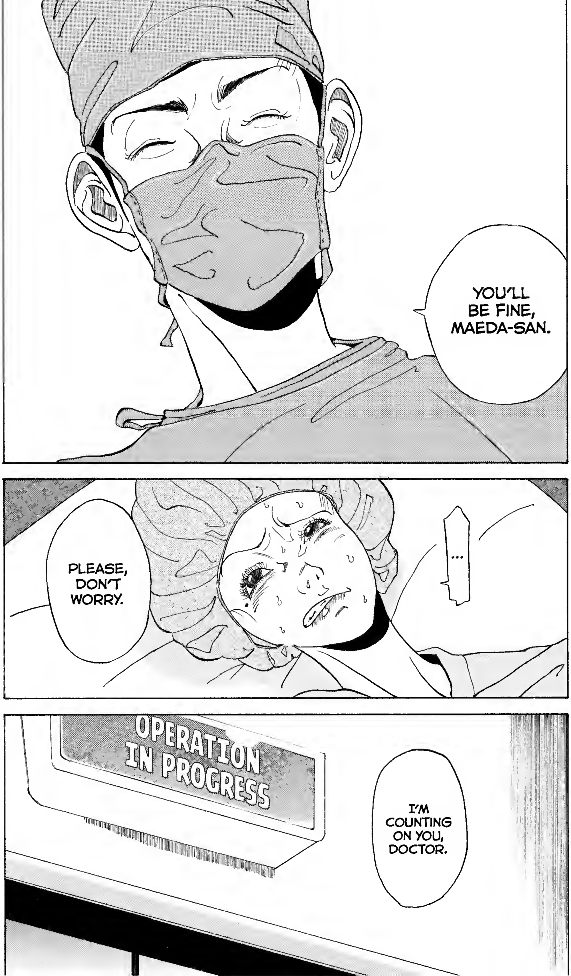

FLAP
S S S...
IS MY WATER BREAKING?
HUH?
OH, NO... THE UMBILICAL CORD!
...
WH... WHAT'S THAT...
...COMING OUT OF ME?
H...HANG ON! I'LL CALL DR. KOUNOTORI!

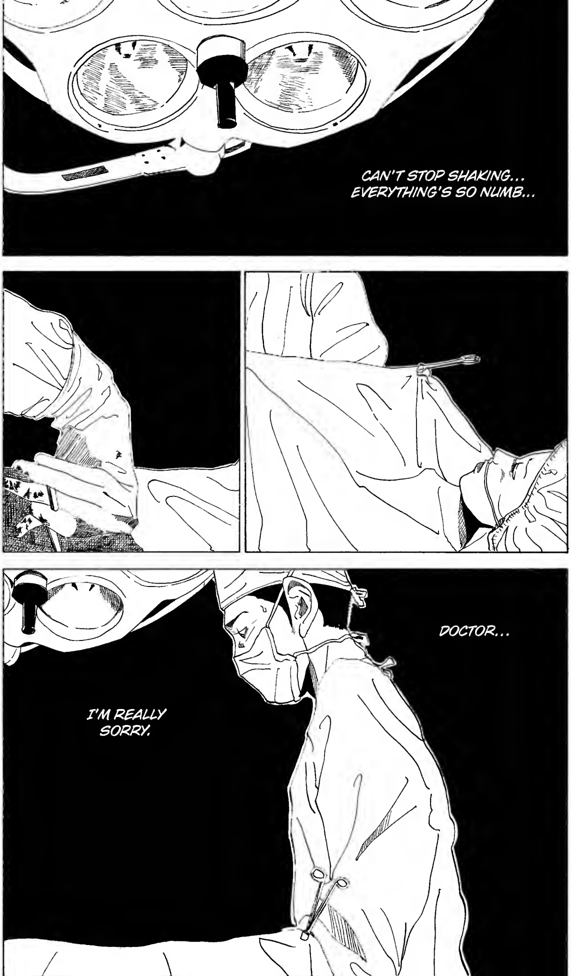

I WISH...
...WE COULD HAVE DONE A VAGINAL BIRTH FOR MAEDA-SAN.
SHIMOYA.
SUPPOSE YOU WERE A STRIPPER YOURSELF.
IF YOUR DOCTOR SAID YOU HAD A BREECH BABY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
...
THE C-SECTION, I SUPPOSE.

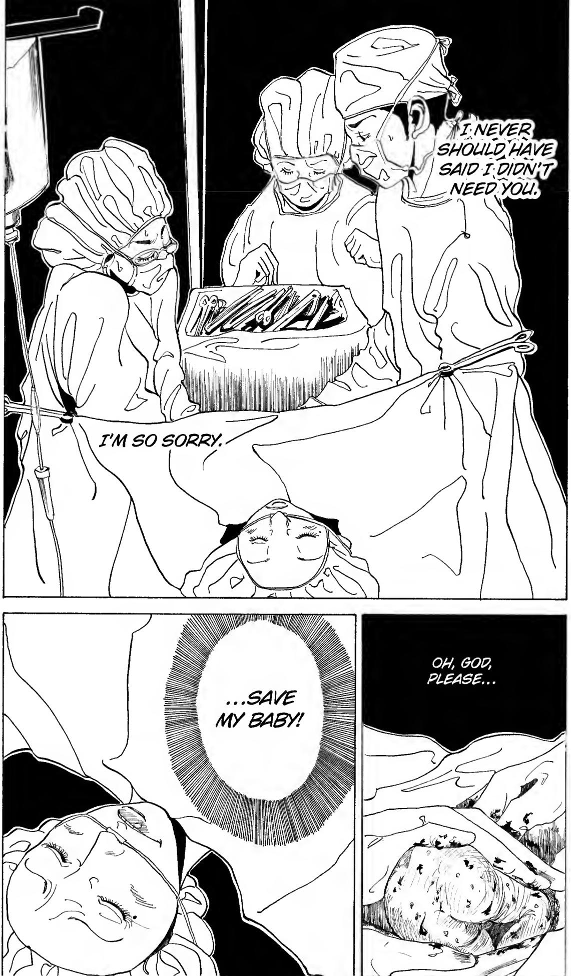

I THOUGHT SO.
WHY SHOULD IT BE ANY DIFFERENT FOR MAEDA-SAN'S BABY, THEN?
FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE NEED TO THINK OF THE SAFETY OF BOTH THE MOTHER AND CHILD.
DOCTOR!
IT'S MAEDA-SAN! HER WATER BROKE!
AND...

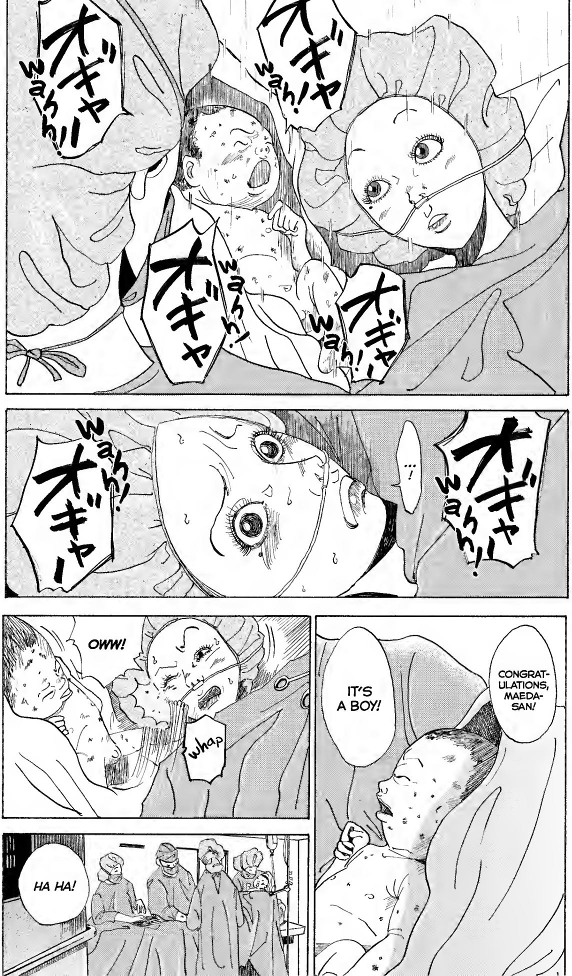

...THE UMBILICAL CORD'S COMING OUT FIRST!
?!
CALL THE NICU, NOW!
THE BABY'S HEARTBEAT IS DROPPING FAST!
WH... WHAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THE UMBILICAL CORD'S COMING OUT.
MEANING, RIGHT NOW...

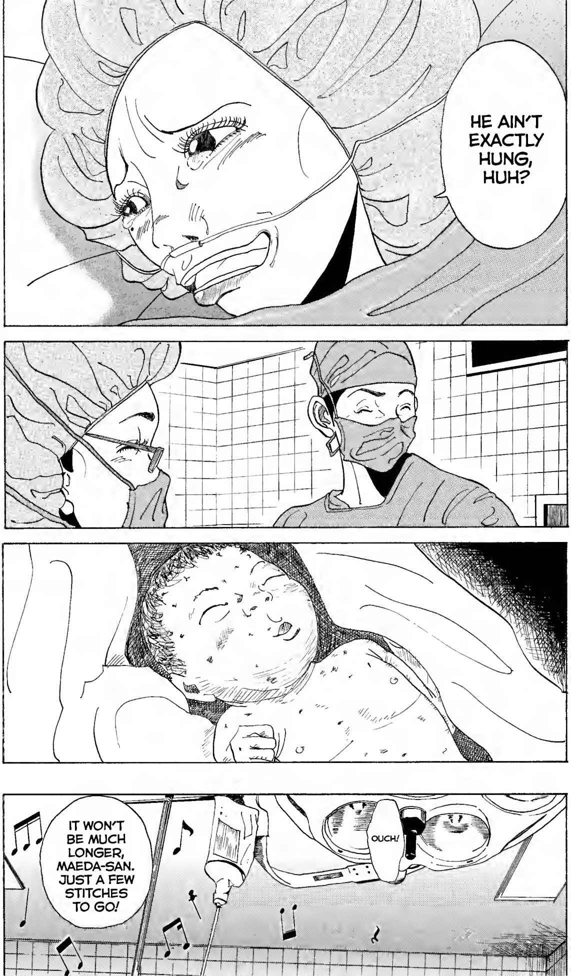

...IT'S STRANGLING YOUR BABY, MAEDA-SAN.
NO...
OPERATION IN PROGRESS
PLEASE, DOCTOR! SAVE MY BABY!
CUT ME OPEN! DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO!
...
YOU'LL BE FINE.
Jolt
ビクッ
EEK!

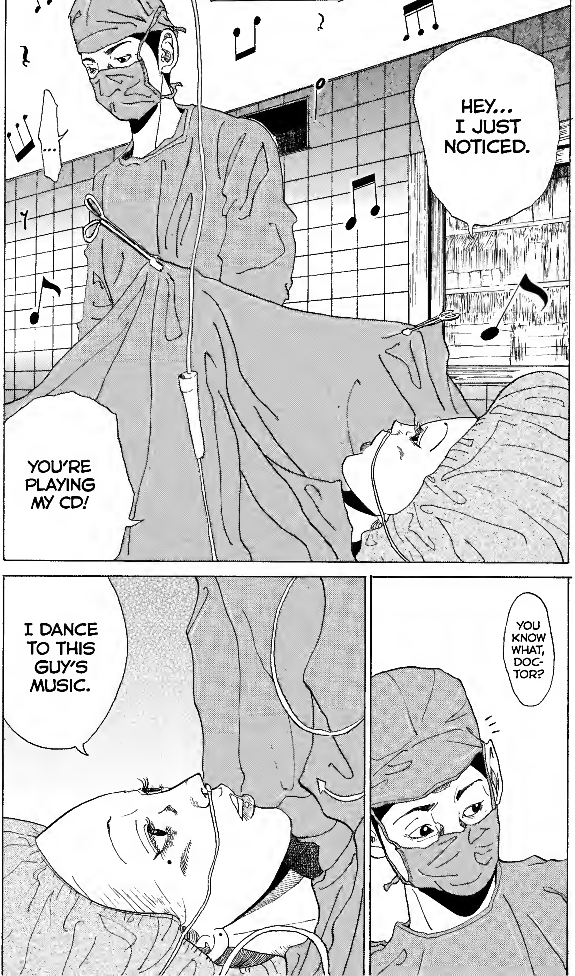

YOU'LL BE FINE, MAEDA-SAN.
...
PLEASE, DON'T WORRY.
OPERATION IN PROGRESS
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, DOCTOR.

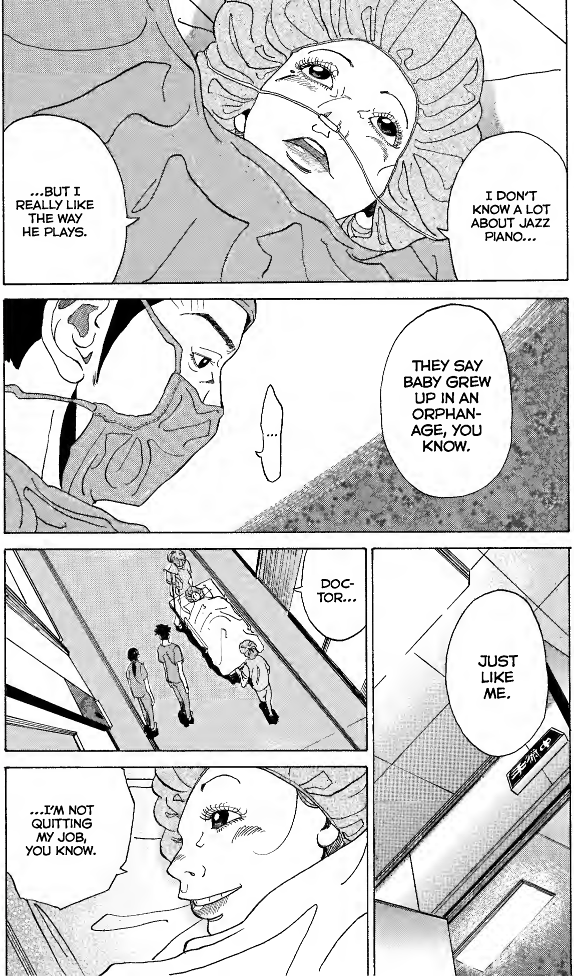

CAN'T STOP SHAKING...
EVERYTHING'S SO NUMB...
DOCTOR...
I'M REALLY SORRY.

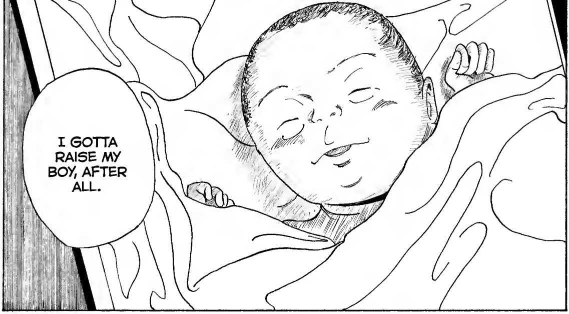

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE SAID I DIDN'T NEED YOU.
I'M SO SORRY.
OH, GOD, PLEASE...
...SAVE MY BABY!

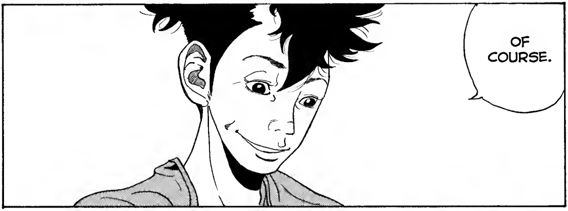

オギャ
wah!
オギャ
wahn!!
オギャ
wah!
オギャ
wahn!
オギャ
wahn!!
…!
オギャ
wahn!
CONGRATULATIONS, MAEDA-SAN!
IT'S A BOY!
OWW!
whap
HA HA!

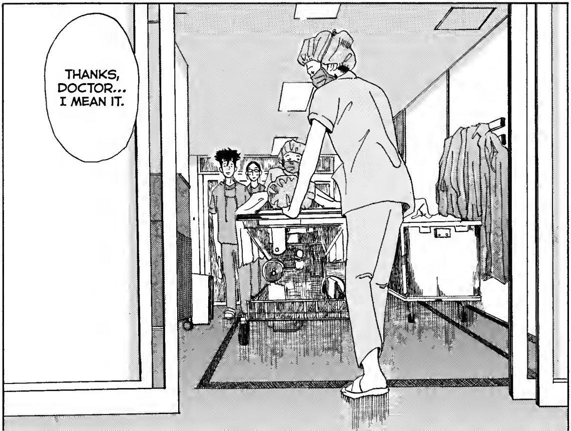

HE AIN'T EXACTLY HUNG, HUH?
OUCH!
IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER, MAEDA-SAN. JUST A FEW STITCHES TO GO!

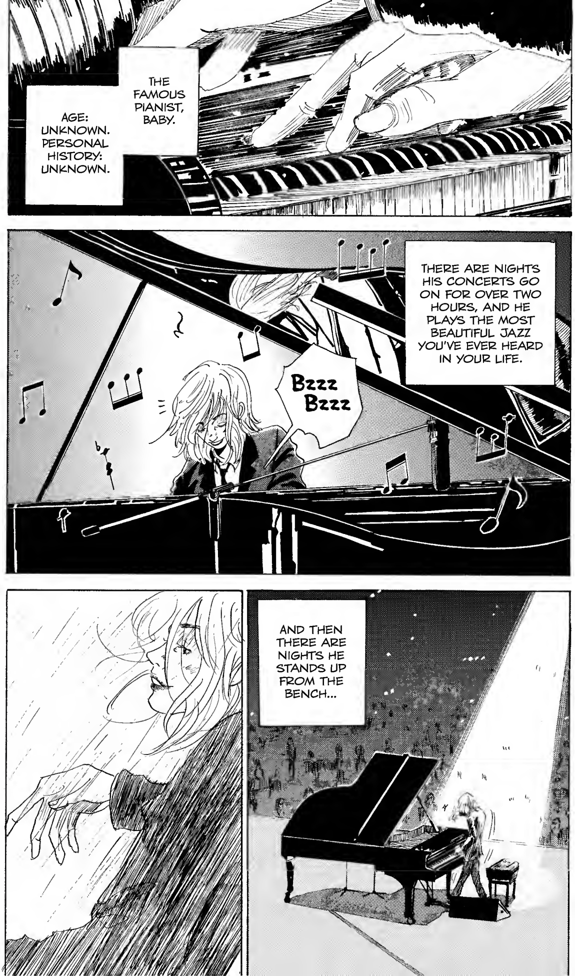

...
HEY... I JUST NOTICED.
YOU'RE PLAYING MY CD!
YOU KNOW WHAT, DOCTOR?
I DANCE TO THIS GUY'S MUSIC.

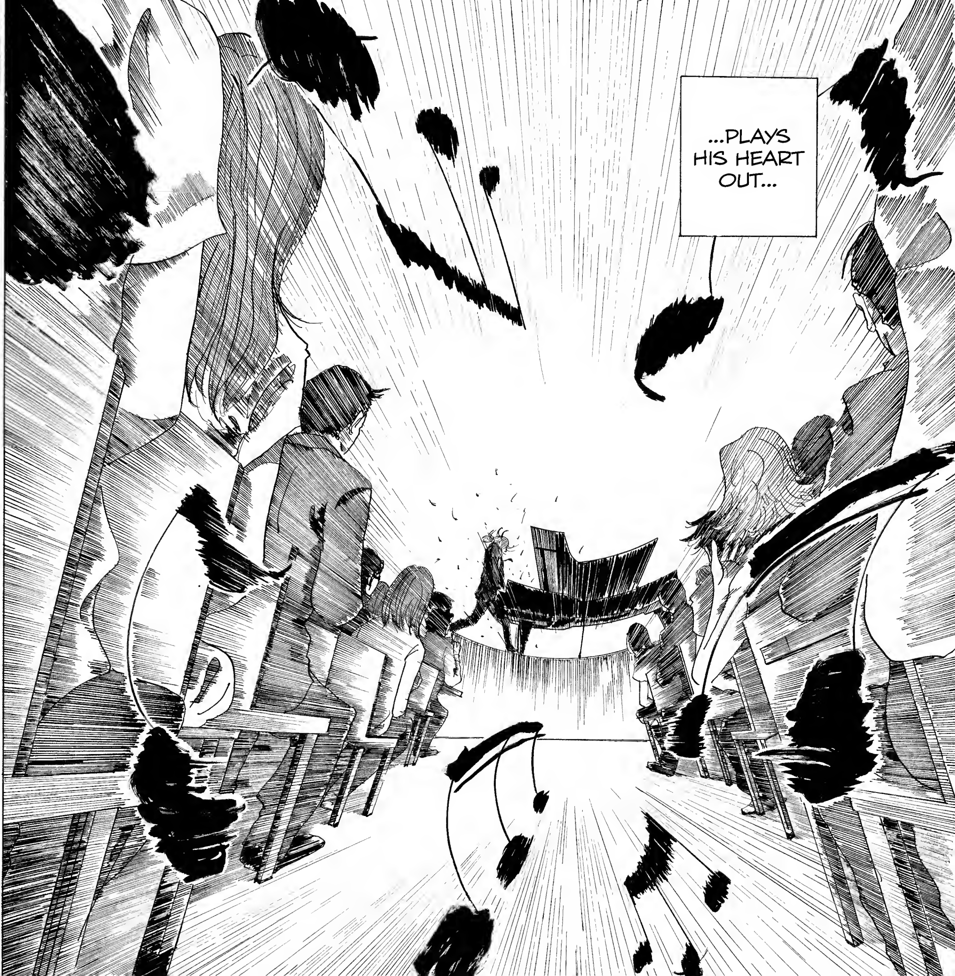

I DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT JAZZ PIANO...
...BUT I REALLY LIKE THE WAY HE PLAYS.
THEY SAY BABY GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE, YOU KNOW.
...
JUST LIKE ME.
手術中
DOCTOR...
...I'M NOT QUITTING MY JOB, YOU KNOW.

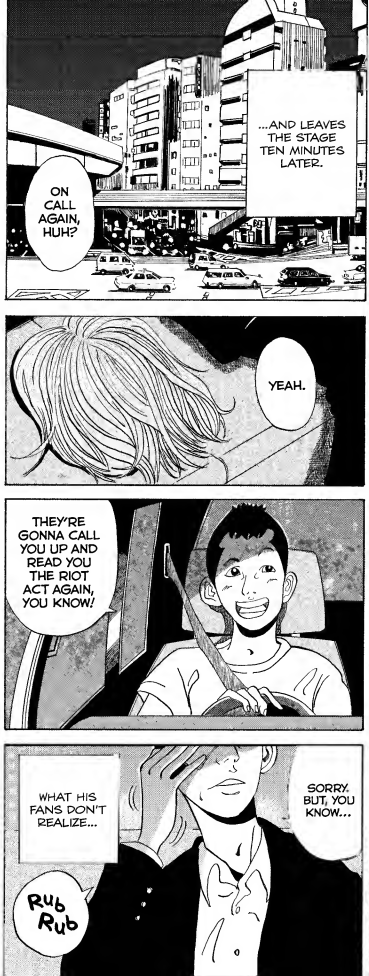

I GOTTA RAISE MY BOY, AFTER ALL.

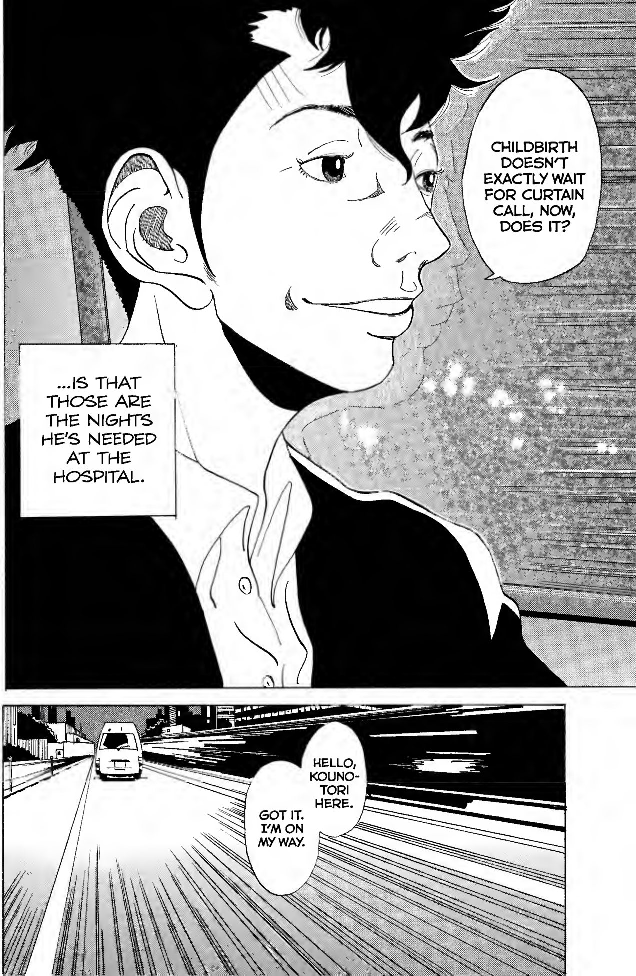

OF COURSE.


THANKS, DOCTOR... I MEAN IT.


THE FAMOUS PIANIST, BABY.
AGE: UNKNOWN. PERSONAL HISTORY: UNKNOWN.
THERE ARE NIGHTS HIS CONCERTS GO ON FOR OVER TWO HOURS, AND HE PLAYS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL JAZZ YOU'VE EVER HEARD IN YOUR LIFE.
Bzzz Bzzz
AND THEN THERE ARE NIGHTS HE STANDS UP FROM THE BENCH...

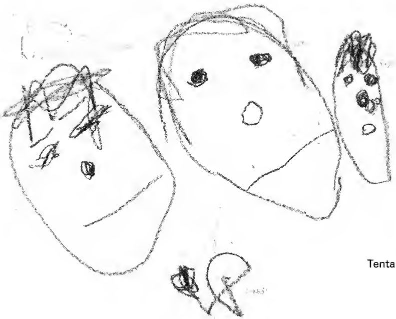

...PLAYS HIS HEART OUT...


...AND LEAVES THE STAGE TEN MINUTES LATER.
ON CALL AGAIN, HUH?
YEAH.
THEY'RE GONNA CALL YOU UP AND READ YOU THE RIOT ACT AGAIN, YOU KNOW!
SORRY. BUT, YOU KNOW...
WHAT HIS FANS DON'T REALIZE...
Rub Rub

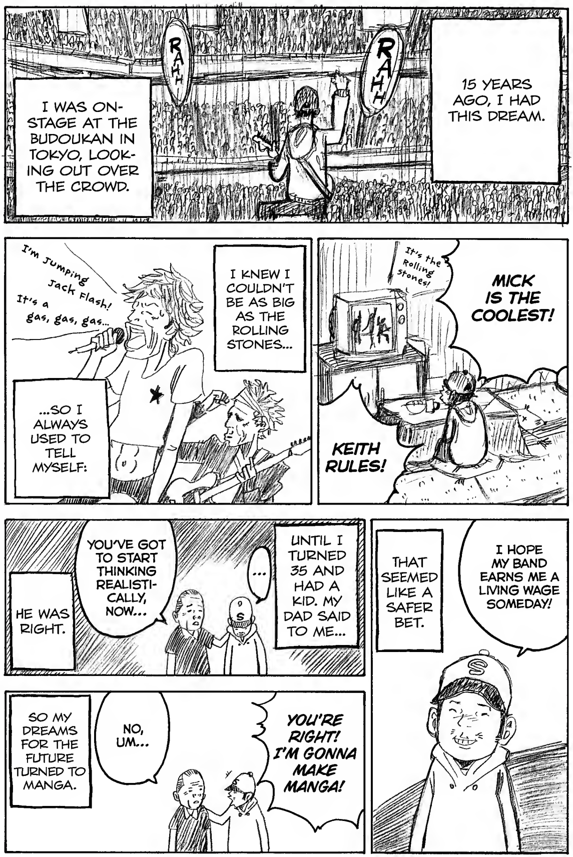

CHILDBIRTH DOESN'T EXACTLY WAIT FOR CURTAIN CALL, NOW, DOES IT?
...IS THAT THOSE ARE THE NIGHTS HE'S NEEDED AT THE HOSPITAL.
HELLO, KOUNOTORI HERE.
GOT IT. I'M ON MY WAY.

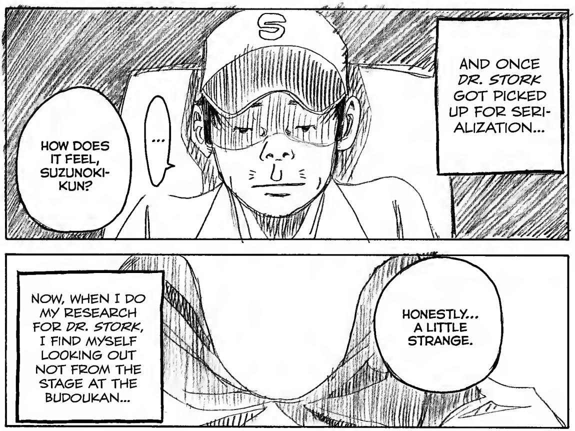
ON CALL / END

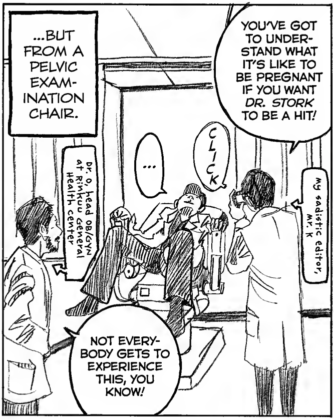
His first picture of the family!
Left to right, it's my wife,
my boy, and me...



Tenta, age 5


15 YEARS AGO, I HAD THIS DREAM.
RAHH
RAHH
I WAS ON-STAGE AT THE BUDOUKAN IN TOKYO, LOOKING OUT OVER THE CROWD.
It's the Rolling Stones!
MICK IS THE COOLEST!
KEITH RULES!
I KNEW I COULDN'T BE AS BIG AS THE ROLLING STONES...
I'm Jumping Jack Flash! It's a gas, gas, gas...
...SO I ALWAYS USED TO TELL MYSELF:
I HOPE MY BAND EARNS ME A LIVING WAGE SOMEDAY!
THAT SEEMED LIKE A SAFER BET.
UNTIL I TURNED 35 AND HAD A KID. MY DAD SAID TO ME...
...
YOU'VE GOT TO START THINKING REALISTICALLY, NOW...
HE WAS RIGHT.
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M GONNA MAKE MANGA!
NO, UM...
SO MY DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE TURNED TO MANGA.


S
AND ONCE *DR. STORK* GOT PICKED UP FOR SERIALIZATION...
...
HOW DOES IT FEEL, SUZUNOKI-KUN?
HONESTLY... A LITTLE STRANGE.
NOW, WHEN I DO MY RESEARCH FOR *DR. STORK*, I FIND MYSELF LOOKING OUT NOT FROM THE STAGE AT THE BUDOUKAN...


YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE PREGNANT IF YOU WANT *DR. STORK* TO BE A HIT!
My sadistic editor, Mr. K
CLICK
...
Dr. O, head OB/GYN at Rinkuu General Health Center
...BUT FROM A PELVIC EXAMINATION CHAIR.
NOT EVERYBODY GETS TO EXPERIENCE THIS, YOU KNOW!

Thank you for reading the first volume of Dr. Stork.

I (Suzunoki Yuu) couldn't have made this manga without the support of a few people:

My wife and son (who turned five this year).

My wife's good friend, K-chan. She's a maternity doctor.

My strict editor, Mr. K.

Dr. O, the head obstetrician at Rinkuu General Health Center. He served as a model for Dr. Kounotori and has been kind enough to let me do research at his hospital.

The wonderful staff at Rinkuu General.

Dr. N from the maternity wing, who's always goofing around with me over texts.

My assistants Min-chan, O-chan, N-numa-kun, Kouda-kun, K-kun, Hiro P and Otsuki-kun.

Last but not least, my readers. Thanks to your gracious support, I managed to release Dr. Stork volume one. Thank you so much.

I'm gonna keep giving it my all!

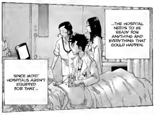
--Suzunoki Yuu

Translation Notes

"Doorstep mother," chapter 1

[12.2]

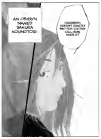
The term used in the original Japanese, *tobikomi shussan*, can be translated more directly as "walk-in delivery." It refers to mothers who don't see a doctor for their prenatal checkups, instead waiting to seek medical attention until they go into labor. *Tobikomi shussan* is a term with a fair degree of cultural weight in Japan, giving its usage in chapter 1 a dramatic flair that we didn't feel came across with the literal translation "walk-in delivery." We chose "doorstep mother" in order to evoke the image of a baby left in a basket on a doorstep, so that both the English and Japanese phrases would be playing off of cultural tropes associated with desperate measures taken by parents who can't provide for their children.


...THE HOSPITAL NEEDS TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN.
SINCE MOST HOSPITALS AREN'T EQUIPPED FOR THAT...

"Encore" and "on call," pages 3 and 191

[4.1]

The word "encore" and the term "on call," when transliterated into Japanese, sound similar; they become *ankouru* and *onkouru*, respectively. There's a little bit of wordplay around this in a few places in this book. The scene on page 191, where the stagehand asks Dr. Kounotori, "On call again, huh?" is a callback to page 3, when he asks "no encore tonight?" Luckily, both of these scenes feature the line "childbirth doesn't exactly wait for curtain call," so even though it was ultimately impossible to preserve the specific original wordplay, the similarity between these two exchanges is still clear.


CHILDBIRTH DOESN'T EXACTLY WAIT FOR CURTAIN CALL, NOW, DOES IT?
AN OBGYN NAMED SAKURA KOUNOTORI

Daichi, page 116

[116.1]

Daichi is a common boys' name in Japan. It is written with the characters for "dai," meaning "great," and "chi," meaning "earth." The Tanakas choose this name in hopes they can help their severely premature son grow up big and strong.

"Human nature", pages 141 and 150

[150.2]

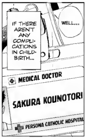
When it's time to come clean about his gonorrhea to Dr. Kounotori and, later, his wife, Moriya-san attempts to divert blame for his unfaithful ways to society at large, saying that cheating is simply "human nature." The term he originally used for this, though, wasn't "human nature;" it was "culture." This is in reference to the actor Junichi Ishida, who found himself at the center of a cheating scandal in the mid-1990s. In a frustrated effort to rebuke a group of paparazzi who were hounding him, Ishida famously stated that his affair evoked a deep, beautiful sorrow of the kind celebrated by art held in the highest regard in Japanese culture. The media paraphrased his statement as "cheating is culture," a phrase that gained infamy and traction in Japan much as Bill Clinton's proclamation "I did not have sexual relations with that woman" did in the United States.

HUMAN NATURE?

Persona Catholic Hospital, page 159

[159.4]

Readers who are familiar with just how small the Japanese Catholic population is (there are only around 500,000 Catholics in Japan, about 0.5% of the total population) may have been surprised to learn that our story is set in a Catholic hospital. The Catholic church has a long history of working to advance global access to health care, so there are Catholic hospitals all over the globe, even in countries with very few adherents to the religion itself. In fact, there's a notable Catholic hospital in Tokyo, the city where *Dr. Stork* is set: Seibo International Catholic Hospital.


WELL...
IF THERE AREN'T ANY COMPLICATIONS IN CHILDBIRTH...
MEDICAL DOCTOR
SAKURA KOUNOTORI
PERSONA CATHOLIC HOSPITAL

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